

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Michele Weiss
Mrs. Sherri Sax
Mrs. Barbara Blankfeld
Mr. John Rach
Mr. Justin Gould
Mr. Brian King

Absent: Mr. Christopher Cooney

Also Present: Law Director Luke McConville
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas
Finance Director Dennis Kennedy
Fire Chief Robert Perko
Police Chief Dustin Rogers
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni
Housing and Geoff Englebrecht
Economic Development Susan Drucker
Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny
Communication and Civic Engagement Michael Cook

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. KING to excuse the absence of Councilman Cooney. On roll call, all voted “Aye”.

Approval of Council Minutes:

Council Meeting January 18, 2022

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD for the passage of the January 18, 2022 Council Minutes as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Additions and Removals from the Agenda; Referrals to Committee

There were no additions or removals from the agenda.

There were no referrals to Committee.

Comments from Audience

Max Malley, John Carroll University, Chairperson of JCU Student Government Community Relations and Service Committee was present to inform the Government Community Relations and Service Committee was looking at new and innovative ways of engaging with the student body and the community at large. Mr. Malley added that he looked forward to working together and engaging for the sake of John Carroll students and every resident who lives within the boundaries of University Heights.

Joy Partain, 2299 Glendon Road was present to encourage Council to start the use of recycling cans. Ms. Partain said it would be worth the cost of purchasing the rolling recycling cans because having them would change resident’s behavior in recycling. Ms. Partain urged Council not to let this issue die on the vine.

Randy Maxin, 3881 Bethany Road was also present to encourage the city to begin curbside recycling.

Reports and Communications from the Mayor, and the taking of action thereon;

Mayor’s Report

Good evening, and welcome to the State of the City.

The people who work in city government work diligently to serve this community. I am proud to have them in this administration.

Our directors, chiefs, department heads, and every single employee here all understand the goals of the administration, and they have been empowered to use their expertise in service to the city and its residents.

The people who serve this community are the greatest asset the city has. I see it every day in the commitment, the work ethic, the joy of coming to work in a community that values public service. It is an honor to work with them, just as it is an honor to serve this community.

Let us continue to work together to serve this city, face the challenges ahead, and turn obstacles into opportunities to advance and improve this city.

SONGS YOU KNOW BY HEART.

Before looking to the future, let's take a listen to the accomplishments, or Greatest Hits if you will, of my first term as your mayor. Here's what we accomplished together the last four years:

- The rebuilding of the Fire Department
- The reopening of the Fire Prevention Bureau
- The creation of the Office of Community Policing
- The creation of the city's first Economic Development Department
- The rebranding of the City and the reclamation of our civic identity
- The strides in communication, transparency and openness
- Our Mosaic city magazine,
- All of the clean audits of our fully rebuilt and professionalized finance department
- The complete redo of our building department
- The creation of the office of Housing and Community Development to keep this City of Beautiful Homes beautiful
- The creation of our CIC to build houses again, and our first new housing development since the 1970s breaking ground this spring
- The CRA and its tax incentives which have driven investment and reinvestment in our community
- The elevation of Walter Stinson Community Park as a center of our community
- And perhaps most importantly, your perseverance during the pandemic coupled with our renewed dedication to racial and social justice.

That list may be music to your ears. It is not a complete catalog. It speaks of Greatest Hits, and doesn't even explore the deep tracks.

I will push this metaphor further. Like Karen Carpenter, I've been saying for the last year "We've only just begun." Because we are not here to rest on our laurels. We are not here to allow this work to become routine.

We are here to continue the relentless pursuit of seeking the best, demanding the best, achieving the best, and never being satisfied with anything less.

Things that ought to be done today – and can be done today – should not be pushed off for another year or more. While we have accomplished so much in four short years, there is always Janet Jackson there to remind us "What Have You Done for Me Lately?"

Well, let's go over that now.

In my first year in office, we created our first Economic Development Department. We treat Economic Development as something we seek, plan, and make happen every day.

Since then, Economic Development Director Susan Drucker has been busy at work. Our focus is on small business and on business outreach. We are working with developers on development plans. 2021 saw new businesses come to town, with Goodwill Industries, Walk In Urgent Care, and The Joint Chiropractic. New restaurants came to town, and we have more coming like Sauce the City, Byrdcode, Primoz Pizza. The incoming new development at Cedar-Taylor, both business and residential, is a credit to the work of our Economic Development department.

When it comes to University Square, we will do what we need to do to make this redevelopment happen. Our residents deserve this. The City is in the process of acquiring the core retail parcel, long vacant and blighted, through eminent domain. We are intervening, as it will not happen without our intervention.

When finally redeveloped, University Square will bring housing and jobs to our community. It will enhance our community, and strengthen our tax base. We are working with the developers, with Target, among other stakeholders, to ensure this happens.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District is ever committed to University Heights, and will be making further investment in the Wiley property to consolidate operations in University Heights. They have also pledged to work with the City on another project of mutual interest, as we begin looking to move the Service Yard and Service Garage into a larger modern facility off the current City Hall site.

Beginning in December 2019, the administration worked with Congregation Zichron Chaim on the planning of a new synagogue building to address their growing needs, and which will better serve the neighborhood and the community. I am pleased to report that the official ground breaking was last month. This is exactly the kind of project that builds community, and I am proud to support it.

Beyond these projects, there is more in the pipeline. Much more. Tonight, I cannot share more about them. This much I *can* tell you. You will learn about them soon. They will be transformative in this city. And the people we are working with behind the scenes are as eager as I am to break ground and proceed this calendar year.

SUMMERTIME.

It's been a long and cold winter, but I promise you that summer will arrive. Summer will bring familiar traditions, and two new events.

First, I have assembled a Citizens Advisory Committee on Sustainability. We are looking at ways to improve recycling pickup, to promote composting and other sustainable practices. We are planning to hold the City's first Sustainability Fair this summer. Details will be forthcoming.

2022 will see University Heights' first Juneteenth celebration. Just as the federal government recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday last year, the City of University Heights now recognizes Juneteenth as a City Holiday. June 19th falls on a Sunday this year, so look for announcements this spring for details of the celebration. And yes, city offices will be closed on Monday June 20th.

Our annual parade will return to its traditional spot on the calendar – Memorial Day. Our parade continues to be our single largest event in the city, as well as our official kickoff of the summer season. Our new Special Projects Coordinator Ben Schaefer will lead the planning for the parade, working in concert with our staff and community to plan and execute this special event.

And speaking of concerts...

The music won't stop with the end of summer. Fall Fest will return on Sunday, October 2nd at The Walt. Carlos Jones and the PLUS Band will headline the event, with special guest Diana Chittester. Wizbang Circus will return, and we'll have more vendors than ever. Last year's Fall Fest drew an estimated 2000 people, and we anticipate our biggest and best Fall Fest yet.

REGIONALISM.

The needs of the region require we all work together, regardless of city or county borders, for the common interest.

Last year I chaired the Heights Hillcrest Communications Center Board of Trustees, leading to its merger with Chagrin Valley Dispatch. The result will be improved 911 service. Not only will the merger save money, it will save lives through faster response times.

As your mayor, I have been actively engaged on the Board of Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency, and on the Board of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.

I serve on the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association, and as Secretary of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Suburban Council of Governments.

These committees are working on the Hyperloop, Irishtown Bend, and improved access to the Lakefront. We're also studying local tax reform, both out of fairness and in an attempt to make Northeast Ohio more competitive. I am heartened by the energy and commitment to the region expressed by Cleveland's new Mayor Justin Bibb. Closer to home, Cleveland Heights' first elected Mayor Kahlil Seren is an open and willing partner to the joint needs and goals of our greater Heights community, and I look forward to doing wonderful things together. South Euclid's Mayor Georgine Welo and Shaker Heights' Mayor David Weiss have been reliable partners on an array of matters. And like Martin Horwitz before him, I look forward to working together with Beachwood's new Mayor Justin Berns.

When it comes to our community partners who serve our shared constituencies, I have met recently with the leadership of the CH-UH School District, the Heights Libraries, and Cleveland Heights City Government, to resume the four-way meetings of our boards and councils that began under my administration and were interrupted by the pandemic. Three meetings will be held in 2022, all at Cleveland Heights Rec Center.

We all want these meetings to be not just public relations, but actual substantive meetings about the issues that face our community, and how we can work together to better serve our constituents.

It is in better serving our constituents that I have called the Administration's 2022 Budget, "Putting People First." Let's take a look at that now.

THE 2022 BUDGET: PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST.

My budget priorities are what University Heights residents have been asking for over the last few years.

Infrastructure. You want the roads fixed and the curbs, too. You insist on a modern and sustainable approach to improved recycling. It's also time to make new city facilities a reality.

I've heard you, and your priorities are my priorities. With this budget, we are Putting People First.

THE CEDAR ROAD PROJECT.

The much-anticipated Cedar Road Project is the resurfacing of the road and the improvement of pedestrian crossings on Cedar Road from South Taylor Road to South Green Road in University Heights and South Euclid. This project is being done in partnership with the City of South Euclid, and uses funds from NOACA, Cuyahoga County, South Euclid, and University Heights. The engineering has been completed, and after consultation with ODOT, the project is ready to proceed in 2022.

The condition of Cedar Road requires action this year. In addition, ODOT's estimated cost of the Cedar Road project has already gone up 25% since last year. Delay will not make this project any cheaper.

ROAD RESURFACING AND COMPLETE CURB REPLACEMENT.

We must change how we maintain our streets. For years, University Heights has resurfaced city streets, but has been doing only spot replacement of curbs. It's like wearing a new suit with scuffed up old shoes. It looks terrible.

The policy of spot replacement has resulted in spotty outcomes. Some of our streets have mismatched curbs, and curbs that have sunken from years of inattention. They don't come back on their own.

On most residential streets, the curbs are original to the street construction. This means many of our curbs are nearly a century old or older.

I've heard from residents from all corners of University Heights on this issue. They're right. We need to do better. And this year, we will.

As I announced in November 2021, beginning this year, it is the administration's policy that full curb replacement is to be done with every resurfacing project. Full curb replacement is included in the 2022 roads program estimate.

My Putting People First Budget would resurface Bushnell Road from Edgerton Road to Warrensville Center Road, White Road, and Glendon Road from Meadowbrook to Silsby. None of these streets have been resurfaced since the 1990's.

Ensuring that we do full curb replacement on projects going forward is among the most responsive things we can do as a local government.

MODERNIZED RECYCLING.

University Heights, I hear you. You want a greener city. One of the ways we do that is by modernizing recycling.

University Heights currently has one of the most inefficient recycling programs in Cuyahoga County. With only 6% of our solid waste recycled, University Heights has the third lowest recycling among Cuyahoga County suburbs.

We aim to turn that around. It requires residential collection of loose recycling instead of bagged recycling.

Under this budget, residents will no longer have to shop for blue recycling bags for their recyclables.

In our current system, we send blue bags filled with recyclables to Kimble's facility in Twinsburg for processing. The bags are ripped open, the contents are dumped onto a conveyor belt, and the torn blue bags themselves are then sent to a landfill. It's wasteful, and frankly, it goes beyond the whole intent of recycling.

It's also costly. Since 2020, Kimble charges the City 50% more to process bagged recycling than it charges other communities for the processing of loose recycling.

We can do better. My budget provides for one 64-gallon recycling cart on wheels for every household currently in University Heights. Residents may place their recyclables directly in the cart, loose and without a blue bag. The Service Department already has a cart flipper on hand for handling the carts. All we need now are the carts.

With the increase of mail order delivery for goods, especially since the pandemic, the carts are simply better suited for the volume of cardboard we use as residents. Currently, loose cardboard that isn't tied or bagged is frequently discarded with the rubbish instead of the recycling, as our current method of pickup is not compatible

with handling a high volume of cardboard. Those two fixed cans on the fronts of the rubbish scooters simply don't hold cardboard well. Larger bins on the rubbish scooters aren't feasible or safe.

People want to do the right thing with all of their cardboard. Understanding that the City doesn't handle cardboard well when we pick it up, we have allowed residents to bring their cardboard directly to the service yard to place in the blue cardboard container. Well intentioned residents then overfill the cardboard container on site. Turns out we don't handle it well here either. Cardboard intended for recycling gets wet and/or contaminated. The yard is left a mess. And there isn't room for additional containers.

We can do better, and with the recycling carts in this budget, we will do better for our residents, and yes, for the planet.

The time to do this is now. We commissioned a solid waste study, which was completed in May 2020, and have the expert opinion that this is the way forward. It is unlikely that future recycling bids will even offer the processing of bagged recycling.

Time is running out. By acting now, we can avoid disruption of our residential recycling pickup program by modernizing it, while achieving better overall recycling results – all while maintaining the high level of service our residents expect, deserve, and pay for.

We can do this. Drive around. It's being done in South Euclid, in Lyndhurst, in Beachwood, in Solon. Cleveland Heights is adopting a similar system this spring. We can do it here, and we should do it this year.

SIGNS O' THE TIMES.

The Priority 1 Signage phase of the City rebranding project was originally scheduled to deploy in 2019. My budget gets our rebranding back on track. In 2022, our new city logo and branding will be seen on new signs welcoming visitors and residents to University Heights.

The Priority 1 Signage includes new primary and secondary gateway signs, new pole mounted gateway signs where space does not allow for a primary or secondary gateway sign. It also includes permanent signage for Walter Stinson Community Park: a monument sign on the Saybrook end of the park, and a sign utilizing the existing arch on the Fenwick end.

Signs for City Hall, Purvis Park, Gateway Banners, pocket parks and other points of interest will be covered in later phases.

NEW MUNICIPAL FACILITIES.

Over the last four years, we have increased programming at The Walt. We have moved our summer concert series there. In the summer we have events most weeknights, from Yoga in the Park to Tai Chi in the Park, to Bootcamp in the Park.

Organically, we have seen The Walt transform into a city center. Coffee sales on weekends. Volunteers tending to flower beds. Impromptu performances by musicians. Freecycle meetups. Even as the weather turns, people keep trying to use our community park, even in the cold.

People clearly demand a place to congregate year-round. With new municipal facilities, we can truly achieve the year round programming our residents have been craving. New facilities will help us better serve the whole community and improve service from our police, fire, and service departments. And even host our own city council meetings in our own facilities again one day soon.

The GPD Group will make a presentation to City Council soon on the condition of facilities. In 2022, we should continue transferring money to the Facilities Capital Improvement Fund. Our next steps will include the hiring of a project manager among other professional services.

My budget reflects what we all know - City Hall is obsolete, out of date and inaccessible. There is no gathering space for the community. The buildings for our police, fire, and service department are also outdated and woefully inadequate. The upcoming issue of Mosaic magazine will feature a detailed article on these conditions. Suffice it to state: the residents of University Heights expect and deserve better.

City Hall, Fire, and Police would ideally remain located at the current location on the corner of Warrensville Center Road and Silsby Road. Additional property could be acquired for a comprehensive redevelopment. The Service Department remains a suitable candidate for relocation.

Residents need and deserve year-round senior and community programming, and new facilities will allow that to happen. A new City Hall will be environmentally efficient and ADA compliant with community spaces. New buildings for fire and police will allow greater access and help us serve the public more efficiently.

The Firehouse was constructed in 1941, while the Police Station followed in 1953. The “town hall” building was built in 1925, the year Idlewood adopted the name University Heights.

New municipal facilities were studied in the 2003 University Heights Master Plan, and adopted in the updated plan in 2016. We all know it needs to be done. What we are studying is how to get there.

In the meantime, the City will do its part to keep making The Walt a happening place, and do what we can for programming for seniors given the current facilities limitations.

OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS – THE WALT AND PURVIS PARK.

I jumped into local issues back in 2012, as part of the grassroots effort to build the community park now known as Walter Stinson Community Park. We had great expectations in 2012, even I did not dare to dream of the success The Walt has become.

When the pandemic drove people outdoors, The Walt was one place people could safely gather. The use of The Walt has transformed from seasonal to year-round activity.

The park restrooms were designed for seasonal use only. Currently, they close for the season from Halloween till Memorial Day. Their design requires closure so that winter temperatures don’t freeze the pipes.

The 2022 budget has funding towards modifying and heating the restrooms to keep them open year-round.

Turning to Purvis Park, the Beryl Rothschild Pool at Purvis Park has long been our community’s greatest amenity. To keep it that way, it is time to paint the pool, paint the waterslide, and replace the poolside lounges and vertical chairs.

Finally, the budget restores the stipend position for Senior Services Coordinator, a position last held by Mr. Walter Stinson, who officially retired for the last time during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are working with the Heights Libraries to coordinate the eventual resumption of Senior Happenings, a new part time coordinator will be given the latitude to create and arrange senior events that are safe and advisable under the ever-fluid conditions of the pandemic. In Putting People First, we owe it to our seniors to do what we can with what we’ve got, even with the challenges of COVID variants and our own limited facilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY REMAINS PARAMOUNT.

When I ran for mayor four years ago, I campaigned on rebuilding the Fire Department, and together we did that.

We reopened the Fire Prevention Bureau, and opened the Office of Community Policing.

The Putting People First Budget includes funding the Fire Department needs for turnout gear. It continues the funding needed for the Fire Department’s voluntary Home Safety Inspection Program that residents may utilize to identify fire risks in their homes.

As for the police department, the budget includes two new police cars, and the funding needed to complete the police radio system upgrade.

Your police, fire, and service employees worked the duration of 2020 without a raise. Working together in negotiating the new Collective Bargaining Agreements with all unions, we all agreed that 2020 would remain a zero raise year, and instead agreed to 3.5% raises beginning in July 2021 and again in 2022. Council has approved these, and the new raises for both years will be paid for largely out of the 2022 budget. The 2022 budget also funds increased health insurance costs.

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM RESTORATION.

The Putting People First Budget restores funding for the exterior home maintenance program for University Heights homeowners. Every homeowner wants to keep their home looking beautiful and up to code, but sometimes needed repairs are often out of their price range. By restoring funding for the exterior home maintenance program, we can support homeowners, maintain property values and ensure University Heights remains “The City of Beautiful Homes.”

Established in 2019, the Exterior Maintenance Program provides a 90-10 grant up to \$2,500 to qualified homeowners for resolving an exterior violation. For some prior grant recipients, it was the difference between being able to afford to age in place, or giving up and selling the house.

THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT YOUR SERVICE.

Over the years, the City has increased the workload of the Service Department without adhering to the equipment replacement schedules or addressing their staffing needs. For example, we built and opened an entire new park in 2016, without increasing staff to take care of it

The Putting People First budget recognizes the Service Department's role in the everyday lives of residents. We all hope we will never need to call the police or call for an ambulance, but every week, we need the rubbish and recycling picked up. Every winter, we need the streets plowed. Every fall, we want our leaves picked up. And when the sewers back up, or trees fall in a storm, they are there, day or night.

To better do all that, we must finally address and fill the need to hire two additional service department employees. At times this year, we had no more than one driver and one temp on a rake doing leaf pickup, while everyone else was assigned to solid waste pickup. That isn't sustainable and cannot continue. We need help.

The previous City Council declared late last year that "[t]he City of University Heights shall maintain backyard solid waste collection for its residents." In order to do that, we need more employees. Money for two new full-time laborers is in the budget. To be absolutely clear, we do not need additional staff for my recycling proposal. Instead, these hires are essential to ensuring the timely collection of rubbish, the ongoing improved plowing of streets, and keeping leaf pickup on schedule.

As for equipment, and as scheduled, the budget provides for another new garbage truck, a one-ton pickup truck with plow, and a mower. All are to replace equipment in poor condition that are due or past due to be replaced. It should be noted that supply chain issues make timely ordering of equipment all the more imperative.

IMPROVING INTERNAL OPERATIONS TO BETTER SERVE YOU.

This year will see us formalize at long last a regular IT provider for the City, and we have budgeted for this. This will finish the transition I started four years ago to IT that is proactive and not merely reactive.

With that, we have budgeted for a new website with improved functionality. During the pandemic, we moved special pickups online. Other city payments, like ordering a garage sale permit or for a civil marriage ceremony, are planned to be moved online as well.

We have budgeted for an outside HR consultant to handle the day-to-day HR duties, in a proactive and not merely reactive way. Currently we rely too heavily on department heads to serve as their own HR. This creates problems when we have workers compensation and disciplinary issues. We often end up referring matters to labor counsel that could have been handled more efficiently and more economically by an HR professional. With the adoption and implementation of the new employee handbook, the time is ripe for professionalizing the city's HR functions.

PLANNING, BUILDING, AND MAINTAINING THE SUSTAINABLE CITY.

The Building Department budget is actually less now than it was in 2019 thanks to the efficiencies created by SafeBuilt. In late 2020, our City Planner was temporarily promoted to interim manager of Building and Housing while we transitioned to SafeBuilt. Once SafeBuilt came in, he left to pursue another professional opportunity. We did not fill his position in 2021. Restoring the City Planner position is in the budget for 2022. This is essential to the Community Development function of the Housing and Community Development Department.

The Putting People First budget provides funding for the widely-supported comprehensive zoning code update. The redo of the zoning code is essential to planning by design the University Heights we want to be for decades to come.

THE STATE OF THE CITY IS STRONG.

Being Mayor is a political position, yes. It's also a calling. And it's also a job, done day in and day out like other jobs, for long hours and off hours, dealing with every problem imaginable and unimaginable. It requires broad expertise, backbone, stamina, and a visible, palpable empathy for the walks and conditions of life.

As your Mayor, I want to leave things better than how I found them, all for the people of University Heights.

Ideally, the person in the job wants that one thing: to leave things better than they found them, while doing everything in their power to achieve that goal.

As I said at my first state of the city address, one year into office:

"When you are mayor, you have no idea how long you get to do that. I would never want to look back at this time and think I did not do everything I could to improve our city. I never want to look back and think that I held back."

I have not held back.

Serving as your mayor continues to be the greatest honor of my professional life, even with all the challenges brought on with the pandemic. I believe in the strength of our ideas. And that the future of our city depends on their fulfillment. I know you believe in them too, which is why you gave me a second term in office. On balance, you favor what I have done for you and for the City with my first four years as your mayor. I will continue to

bring my best effort and best judgment. I will continue to bring progress, especially to those who need the hand. I will continue to bring empathy, especially to those who need the heart. And I will continue the work bringing to fruition the plans that are moving this City forward, and chart its course for decades to come.

The state of the city is strong. It is strong because the people of this city recognize that the future of this city is here. We know what we have, we know what we want, and we can get it. We know what steps we must take to move from what we have to what we want.

Four years ago, the city council passed a budget reflective of this then newly elected mayor's campaign platform. Tonight, I extend my hand to the city council to do that once again, so that we together honor the will of the people and the mandate the people put on city government.

What the people want is a sustainable community with prudent investment in its future. What we have now are the resources to do it, and the budget that makes it possible. The next step, is to pass the budget and get to work. It is a budget that modernizes recycling. It is a budget that works towards upgrading municipal facilities – from our parks to our city hall campus. It is a budget that improves critical infrastructure. It is a budget that builds for the future, through a comprehensive zoning code update, yes, and devoting the resources we need to will into existence the redevelopment of University Square. It is a budget that is fiscally responsible and prudent, as it does all this while honoring our commitment to keep at least \$2.5 million in reserve. It is a budget that addresses real needs now. It is a budget that Puts People First. It is a budget that seeks to fulfill everything we talked about together on the campaign trail last year. You know what we want, you know what we've got, and you know what it takes to get from what we've got to what we want. Together, we can get what we want: a modern and sustainable University Heights. Thank you, and good night.

Lastly, the names of the City's snowplows are: Darth Blader, Veruca Salt, The Big LePlowski, Sprinkles and Long Johns Carroll.

Thank you. This concludes my report.

Reports and Communications from City Council, and the taking of action thereon

Mrs. Weiss reported that the new Council members are working hard and acclimating themselves to the City Department Directors. There will be a number of Committee meetings over the next four weeks. We have recreation, service, housing and building committee meetings. We also have a safety meeting that were Councilman Gould will discuss in his committee report. There will be a Joint Finance/Finance Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, February 24th at 7pm with a virtual option. Council will have a Council of the Whole Retreat in March and lastly, there will be a Facilities assessment meeting coming up at the end of February.

Reading and Disposition of Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Consideration of Agenda Items:

A. Resolution 2022-11 In Honor of Black History Month

Mayor Brennan read Resolution 2022-11 into the record.

A resolution recognizing and celebrating Black History Month 2022. Whereas the city of University Heights is a community that values its diverse population and celebrates the many cultures backgrounds and histories of its residents. And whereas Black History Month has been recognized each February by US presidents since 1976, and grew out of the creation of Negro History Week in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, an author, historian and son of enslaved persons. And whereas it is recognized that Black History is American History, while also underscoring that the story of black Americans precedes the founding of our nation, with hundreds of 1000s of individuals having been forcefully brought to these shores, and millions more to the Caribbean, and Central and South America. And whereas Black Americans have struggled and persevered through enslavement, persecution and oppression. Facing still today systemic barriers to equality in our economy, at the ballot box, and many other facets of American society. And whereas despite these seemingly unending challenges, Black Americans have continuously made critical contributions to America and the world through innovation, arts, science, business, law and governance, health care, education, and more, as well as to our broader national culture and heritage. And whereas the Association for the Study of African American Life and History founded by Mr. Woodson has declared the 2022 theme for Black History Month to be black health and wellness. Recognizing both the long-troubled relationship between Black Americans and the healthcare system, as well as the contributions to set system by members of the Black community of particularly recent import Dr. Krasniqi led a team of scientists in the development of the mRNA 1278 vaccine, the Moderna vaccine in the fight against COVID 19. Whereas this theme also recognizes the importance of financial, economic and social wellness in the Black Community and these factors interconnectedness as social determinants of physical and mental health. And whereas it is essential to our continued growth and progress as a Nation, that we honor the legacy and contributions of Black Americans, while vowing to continue the necessary work of reckoning with past injustice

and seeking equity for our present and future, not only in this month, but indeed all year round. Now, therefore, be jointly proclaimed by the Mayor, and resolved by the City Council of the City of University Heights, Ohio, that section one, the City of University Heights recognizes and honors black history month in February 2022, celebrates our black neighbors and encourages all residents to further educate themselves on black history in America, and seek remedies to continued injustices. Section two. It is hereby found that all formal actions of this council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this council, and that all deliberations of this council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance, all legal requirements. Section three, this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety the city, the emergency being for the reason that this resolution pertains to the concurrent celebration of Black History Month in February 2022. Wherefore this legislation resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption and approval by the Mayor.

MOTION BY MRS. SAX, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to approve Resolution 2022-11 In Honor of Black History Month. On suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” On roll call, all voted “aye.”

B. Resolution 2022-08 Necessity Declaring the Intent to Appropriate and Acquire the Fee Simple Interest in Certain Real Property Titled to University Square Real Estate Holdings, LLC, known as 2203 Warrensville Center Road, Bearing Permanent Parcel No. 721-01-001, City of University Heights, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, as more fully described herein, for the Purpose of Eliminating Blight (on second reading)

Mr. McConville noted for the record that this Resolution of necessity pertained to the core detail parcel on the University Square site. The parcel that is closest to Cedar Road and wraps around the property much of the roadway at the University Square site. Core retail parcel and that structure is vague and there are a variety of different tests within the Ohio statutory work are proving polite. One of the tests is whether taxes and assessments that have passed due on the property exceed the value of the property. And if that's the case, then the property is deemed blighted as a matter of law.

MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to Approve Resolution 2022-08 Necessity Declaring the Intent to Appropriate and Acquire the Fee Simple Interest in Certain Real Property Titled to University Square Real Estate Holdings, LLC, known as 2203 Warrensville Center Road, Bearing Permanent Parcel No. 721-01-001, City of University Heights, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, as more fully described herein, for the Purpose of Eliminating Blight. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C. Ordinance 2022-05 Enacting Codified Ordinance Chapter 1615 Entitled “Fireworks.”

Mrs. Weiss stated that there had robust discussions in multiple committee and Council meetings. Ordinance 2022-05 reflects a new law from the State of Ohio and to reiterate Council feels that it is needed because of the dense population of University Heights and the effects on people with PTSD and animals as well.

Mr. Gould added that the Safety Committee met just prior to this Council meeting and where the Ordinance had been returned to the committee for commentary not only by the Administration, but specifically by Fire Chief Perko and Police Chief Rogers and also members of the committee itself. Both Fire and Police stated that this was a satisfactory ordinance to them, specifically for fire as it had a good element of coordination with surrounding communities. The cities of South Euclid and Shaker Heights are looking at a similar ordinance and the City of Cleveland Heights has already passed a similar one. Mr. Gould added that there was a desire for the Law Director to put together an ordinance that would address these zoning and sale issues of fireworks, which are separate and distinct from the issues addressed by this ordinance which is about setting off fireworks. The Fire Department was okay with the sale and storage issue being addressed separately to this legislation. Mr. Gould added that the State Fire Chiefs Association had provided municipalities draft legislation and regulations to model and Fire Chief Perko would forwarded them to the Law Director to aid in drafting additional legislation regarding the sale and storage of fireworks. Mr. Gould also stated that Police Chief Rogers was also fine with this legislation in that it provided good guidance to the police department and the enforcement of the law in addition to the enforcement of setting off fireworks without getting too much into the issue of details and specifically will allow them by criminalizing it to take as contraband fireworks which worse being set off that would be evidence of a crime. thereby taking them off the street for that adventure. It is the recommendation of the Safety Committee that Council passes this legislation.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. KING to pass Ordinance 2022-05 Enacting Codified Ordinance Chapter 1615 Entitled “Fireworks.” On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mayor Brennan added that he would be working with the local Mayors who have not yet taken up this topic in effort to continue to make this a regional effort.

- D. Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Providing for Submission to the Electors of the City of University Heights a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter to Amend Article 7 Section 3 Relating to the Civil Service Commission, for the Purpose of Expanding the Number of Permitted Eligible Candidates for Open Positions in the Police and Fire Service, and Declaring an Emergency**
- 1. Motion for Reconsideration;**
 - 2. Motion to Amend to Correct Clerical Errors;**
 - 3. Motion to Place on Second Reading;**
 - 4. Motion to Adopt on Emergency**

Mr. McConville explained that this Ordinance was to correct the previously approved Ordinance.

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to approve the reconsideration of Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Providing for Submission to the Electors of the City of University Heights a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter to Amend Article 7 Section 3 Relating to the Civil Service Commission, for the Purpose of Expanding the Number of Permitted Eligible Candidates for Open Positions in the Police and Fire Service. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to amend Ordinance 2022-06 to Correct Clerical Errors. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to place Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Providing for Submission to the Electors of the City of University Heights a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter to Amend Article 7 Section 3 Relating to the Civil Service Commission, for the Purpose of Expanding the Number of Permitted Eligible Candidates for Open Positions in the Police and Fire Service on Second Reading. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to approve Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Providing for Submission to the Electors of the City of University Heights a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter to Amend Article 7 Section 3 Relating to the Civil Service Commission, for the Purpose of Expanding the Number of Permitted Eligible Candidates for Open Positions in the Police and Fire Service and Declaring an Emergency. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye. Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”

- E. Ordinance 2022-09 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation for the Resurfacing of Cedar Road between South Taylor Road and Fenwick Road and between Miramar Boulevard and South Green Road and Authorization of Payment of the City’s share of costs and expenses thereunder, and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)**

Mr. Ciuni reported that the Cedar Road resurfacing project was now being administered by the State of Ohio for the construction part. In accordance with the State’s rules and regulations the City has to enter into a contract with the State to perform the work and also has to deposit its fair share for the project upfront prior to the project’s bidding. The City of University Heights is the lead agency on this project so it has to put the money up front and then collect from the City of South Euclid and from the County. Mr. Ciuni added that the estimate amount of the project is considerably higher than the previous estimate that was received from the design engineer. ODOT claims that is due to trucking material supplies and other supply shortages during the pandemic so they increased the estimated cost of the of the entire project, thus everyone's share has to be increased. The actual cost will not be known until the bids are opened and that is scheduled for at least March or the first of April.

Mayor Brennan noted that the city would place those required funds into escrow in the amount of \$1,029,506 will be broken down as follows; the University Heights share amount of \$551,287, South Euclid’s share would be \$228,219 and the County's contribution of project would be \$250,000. With that being said, and with the money being placed in escrow based upon the idea that due to recent other bids and estimates ODOT is projecting a more expensive project. Due to the reasons that Mr. Ciuni enumerated, it is also possible that the bidding may come in at a lower dollar amount. And if it does, by placing the money in escrow there is a possibility that those funds could be refunded sooner rather than later. Mayor Brennan stated that he had engaged in conversations with ODOT, with South Euclid Mayor Wheeler and also with NOACA Executive Director Grace Gallucci. A substantial portion of this particular project is funded by NOACA. Mayor Brennan added that he approached and discuss with Mrs. Gallucci that the situation regarding the project and the increase costs were of no fault of the cities. Mrs. Gallucci replied that she would direct her staff to undertake a review, to see if there are additional

funds that can be allocated to this project by NOACA. But in the meantime, so not to lose steam on this project the Administration recommends proceeding and placing the required money in escrow.

Mrs. Blankfeld asked what the original bid price was.

Mr. Ciuni replied that University Heights had already bid the job and decided not to administer it itself and to let ODOT administer it. The original bids came in around \$1,850,000 plus or minus and now ODOT is recommending an estimate of about \$2.3 million. Last year the City had budgeted around \$300,000.

Mr. Rach asked if this were to be approved at this time the money would have to go into escrow almost immediately. The University Heights portion would be \$1,029,000 and that the City would be refunded by South Euclid their portion of the project cost.

Mr. Ciuni replied that was correct and stated that there was an agreement with South Euclid for the reimbursement of funds.

Mayor Brennan noted that the largest portion, nearly 70% of the road project is in University Heights thus ODOT sees University Heights as the lead local agency and as the City to front all the funding.

Mr. Rach clarified that if this were to be approved at this meeting, hypothetically, the ARPA money could be used to offset the cost of this project, even if it was already approved, and the money was placed in escrow. Mr. Rach added that since the city was still in the budgeting process, he did not know what the appetite was amongst his fellow council members in spending a billion dollars right now without having a budget. Mr. Rach cautioned everyone and asked what was the city's out, if funds went into escrow and the decision was made not to go forward with the project? Would the city get its money back?

Mr. Ciuni replied that the bids would come back before Council for approval. Mr. Ciuni also explained that the original bids never came back to Council for approval because it was decided not to administer it ourselves because ODOT has certain rules for cities in order to be the local lead agency in running a project and the city couldn't meet those rules in July.

Mr. Gould asked as a procedural matter what would have been needed to happen in order to lock in the \$1.8 million project cost.

Mr. Ciuni replied that the city would have needed to be approved by ODOT to run the project.

Mr. Gould commented to Mr. Ciuni that then he (Mr. Ciuni) did not choose to hold back the bid from Council approval, but he was not able to present it for approval. Mr. Gould asked what were the requirements of the program that the city was not able to meet as a municipality?

Mr. Ciuni stated that ODOT requires the lead City to have somebody who is on staff be certified to administer the project and that he can't be the administrator because he is the City's consultant.

Mayor Brennan added that previously Mr. Zack was certified and was the City Planner until he left.

Mr. Gould commented that the certification was not something that someone would go to school for, but rather getting by an online course.

Mr. Ciuni added that it takes time because it's there was a lot to go through. There are 12 modules that have to be passed with each module taking an hour or two to get through before taking each of the 12 modular tests.

Mr. Gould asked if the only thing that the city did not have in place was a certified administrator would the city be able to administer its own program?

Mr. Ciuni replied that the city would still have needed somebody to inspect the projects and do the construction administration, which the city did not have.

Mr. Gould commented that the inspection team has usually been external where there is not an internal position that would be qualified to do that such inspection. Mr. Gould added that he was just wondering the timeframe between the original bid coming back and the time that Mr. Zack left the city because at some point he imagined that Mr. Ciuni when he initially went out to bid he contemplated Mr. Zack still being with the city, and therefore being able to administer the project.

Mr. Ciuni stated that Mr. Gould was correct.

Mr. Rach asked what was the latest date Council had to approve this project.

Mayor Brennan replied without having a Special Council meeting, the latest would be the next regularly scheduled Council meeting because Mr. Kennedy will still need to set up an escrow account with the bank.

Mr. Gould said he would like to understand better, after Council's Joint Finance Committee meeting how this will fit in with the rest of the city's budget and the Mayor's progress with NOACA providing additional funding.

Mrs. Sax noted that there was a Finance Committee coming up and that Council still had to figure out how to balance the budget and that this was a significant increase in cost. Mrs. Sax said it was understandable why the project that needs to be done, but it needs to be done in a way that will work within the budget. Perhaps there are opportunities through another NOACA or ODOT.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to table the approval of Ordinance 2022-09 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation for the Resurfacing of Cedar Road between South Taylor Road and Fenwick Road and between Miramar Boulevard and South Green Road and Authorization of Payment of the City's share of costs and expenses thereunder. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Mr. Rach added that that this is a no way to slow down the work of Council. This project makes up 5% of next year's budget, along with 11% of our cash on hand going toward an account immediately. So, this requires a lot of thought and that was why Mr. Rach was in favor of this to go to the Finance Committee first.

F. Ordinance 2022-10 Authorizing a Change Order for the 2021 Street Improvement Program for Resurfacing of Portions of Wrenford Road in the Amount of \$5,180.75, Payable to NES Corporation, Inc. and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)

Mr. Ciuni reported that back at a June Council meeting he asked for change order number one and this was change order number two. The first change order included the repair of a large water main break on Wrenford Road. After the repair was done several months later the homeowner came to the city with pictures before and after his driveway apron. It was evident that the it was in fairly good shape, but has settle quite a bit. It was also evident that the water main break caused that settlement in the resident's apron. So, we instructed the contractor to replace his drive apron, which has been done. At the same time Cleveland Water Department beat up the roadway pretty bad right in front of Gearity Elementary School and at the crosswalk where the kids cross. The Administration felt it would be best to pave the roadway from curb to curb in that one section.

Mr. Rach noted his support of Mr. Ciuni's suggestion that the homeowner should not pay for repair. Mr. Rach added that he was on the record at the last committee meeting where there was discussion about city projects and that the party that caused the damage should be the responsible party. Mr. Rach asked in this instance why was this not the City of Cleveland water problem? Why is it University Heights' problem, if it was due to a water main break?

Mr. Ciuni replied that the city does get reimbursed from the City of Cleveland Water for patching the street over the top of water main breaks.

Mr. Pokorny added that Cleveland Water does have a set amount that they pay per square foot, and they will only base that upon the hole that they dig to do that repair. They will not pay for other damage done up the road due to the heaving of the road or other things like that unless you're able to document it for them and inform them of it before you do any type of repair. The city is under a contract with Cleveland Water for their repair reimbursement and the contract says for the patch, not additional area. The city would have to pursue Cleveland Water another way to do additional work outside of the patch.

Mr. Gould asked what would the city had to do here, in order to get the City of Cleveland to pay for the damage done to the private citizen.

Mr. Pokorny replied that the city would basically have to go through the Law Director to the City of Cleveland and prove that the damage to the road and the drive apron was due to their water main break. Rather than going right through the straight contract of cost per square foot for a patch. Mr. Pokorny said he did not know that there was enough documentation to prove that their actual watermain did that to the driveway apron. I mean, that that would be the problem. Cleveland Water would want to see that it was not damaged before the watermain and Mr. Pokorny said he does not have videos with the entire city.

Mrs. Weiss asked Mr. Pokorny if before a project begins are there other photos taken by the contractor of what needs to be done and of what's getting repaired.

Mr. Pokorny replied no, not necessarily.

Mr. Ciuni commented yes, but on the streets that are being resurfacing. This work was added to the job because there were water main breaks that were large and needed to be repaired quickly. At that time, we had a contractor there so we did not have video of the section. If they are doing a street program, yes, we have pre-construction video that we could go back to but in this case we did not.

Mrs. Weiss stated that this has come up before not frequently, but it's come up before where we've had to approve these small change orders. Mrs. Weiss stated that she was wondering if it would be best practice going forward to photograph the projects beforehand in the event the city has to prove something.

Mr. Ciuni said they could do that.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. Ciuni to describe what it was about the damage that he saw that made it clear to him that the damage was done by the water main break and how did he determine that the damage was not before the water main break?

Mr. Ciuni answered that it was the before and after photos that the homeowner showed him.

Mr. Gould stated that he did not understand what the value was of having this commitment from Cleveland Water. When Council approved the changeover from Cleveland Heights Water to City of Cleveland Water on the far westside of the community, the discussion was regarding one of the benefits being that when this sort of thing happens, when there is a water main break, we are able to call them and they can fix these things that happens to damage private property they can fix them. The city has an agreement with them and if we have a before picture, and a after picture Mr. Gould said he would at least like to submitted to Cleveland Water for reimbursement or payment to see if they pay for the repair.

Mr. Ciuni stated it could be submitted to Cleveland Water for payment.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. McConville on clarification as to how his motion should read if he wanted to place a condition on it for the submittal of the invoice to Cleveland Water for possible payment.

Mr. McConville said that the two were essentially two separate issues. What happened in this instance, factually, is that Mr. Ciuni assessed the damage, contacted the contractor and the contractor came out and has performed the work.

Mr. Ciuni replied that was correct.

Mr. McConville continued and said that now there is an invoice that is calling for payment under our contract with the contractor.

Mr. Ciuni replied that was correct.

Mr. McConville said that it was probably the case that the city's contract with the contractor indicates that they are not to come out and do additional work unless there is a change order and that change order must be approved prior to there doing the work. Mr. McConville added that this situation arises all the time because as a practical matter, those contractors are in the area, they can get out there. It does not work for them to wait two weeks for the next council meeting, for the change order to occur. If Mr. Ciuni can't get that contractor to come out within a reasonable within reasonable proximity of work being done the homeowner may wait. The issue will be that the contractor will say that they were relying on representations made through the city's professionals that the work needed to be done, and that they would be paid for it because they have already been done. And, whether the city pays or does not pay should not impact its ability to go back to Cleveland for payment.

Mr. Rach said that he supported approving this, but his condition would be that the city at least submit the request for the claim as part of this process.

Mrs. Sax asked if there was a clause in the Cleveland Water contract that the work has to be satisfactory or there would be some type of recourse?

Mr. Ciuni replied that the contract for the City of Cleveland states that they come out and fix the line. In this instance they did fix the line and it has not leaked or broke again since the repair. It is up to the city to do the restoration above the backfill that is put in place by Cleveland up to where the road is. University Heights has to put the road back.

Mrs. Sax asked why would the City of Cleveland even consider reimbursing if they did what they were contracted to do?

Mr. Ciuni said that they only pay for say a four by eight or five by ten hole above the watermain. The watermain broke and the deterioration and damage went beyond that limit.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to pass Ordinance 2022-10 Authorizing a change order for the 2021 Street improvement program for resurfacing of portions of road in the amount of \$5,180.75. payable to Payable to NES Corporation, Inc., provided that the same is submitted to the city of Cleveland for reimbursement and declaring an emergency. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”

G. Motion to Authorize a Blight Study by CT Consultants to Assess the Status of University Square Parcels at a cost not to exceed \$8,000

Mr. McConville stated that in connection with the city’s eminent domain filing, because it is seeking to take the core retail parcel. For purposes of blight, the city is obligated by statute to provide a third-party blight study of the property. This particular vendor has been recommended by a couple of different reliable sources to the city. They've done a lot of this work in connection with eminent domain actions in the past and their proposal contemplates conducting the study both as to the core retail parcel and to the grass.

Mr. Gould asked if the Blight definitions are old and obsolete, and they're vermin, do they stop there?

Mr. McConville replied no. The reason for that is essentially strategic, if it were in a trial setting, the individual or individuals who performed the study will likely be witnesses, who would be providing testimony about their report and explain why they believed a certain outcome was achieved in connection with the study. So, because they might hypothetically be subject to cross examination, Mr. McConville thought that they will look at it more holistically in any category that they think is met and include that in the analysis.

MOTION BY MRS. SAX, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Authorize a Blight Study by CT Consultants to Assess the Status of University Square Parcels at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

H. Motion to Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Legal Proceedings, Personnel and Real Estate Matters

Mayor Brennan noted that there was a need for Executive Session to discuss real estate and potential legal matters.

MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MR. KING to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and potential legal matters. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Director’s Reports

Finance Department – Mr. Kennedy reported homeowners that feel that their property tax appraisal was too high on the value for your property they have until March 31 to file a property tax contestant with the Board of Revision at the County level. The forms can be found under the County Fiscal Office website. If anyone has questions related please call the finance department at city hall. April 18, 2022 is the last day to file local Regional Income Tax with R.I.T.A.

Fire Department – Chief Perko reported that for the last eight years, the department has focused on firefighter survival by conducting some type of in-house survival drill training. Over the last four years, our training officers have conducted this training on a regional approach. These drills have been found to be very beneficial on a regional level to identify some of the weaknesses between the various departments that work together when we do go structure fires, and also identifying gaps in our policies and procedures that now we can proceed to enhance and make better in the future. Chief Perko commend Training Officer, Doug Robinson for all the work he put in over the last few years into building the props and working with the other neighboring cities training officers.

Communication and Civic Engagement – Mike Cook reported that the State of the City will be on Wednesday at 7pm. Not only will be broadcast on the city's YouTube channel but there will be broadcasts shared on all of the City’s social media accounts as well as the website.

There were no other director reports.

Standing Council Committees:

Building and Housing – Mrs. Blankfeld stated that the committee met on January 27th and the Point of Sale Inspection process continues to be the committee’s focus. Mr. Englebrecht and Mr. White are reviewing streamlining and changes and how they will comply with our codified ordinances.

Community Outreach - Mr. King reported he has met with the John Carroll Student Government, Community Relations and Service Committee where they discussed a potential joint housing and outreach subcommittee to better collaborate with between the city and the school. The Tech Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in the near future.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Weiss reported that there is a Joint Finance Committee and Finance Advisory meeting on Thursday. Once the budget is approved, we will also try to schedule a separate Finance meeting to discuss the application on the use of ARPA funds that are not restricted.

Recreation Committee – Mrs. Weiss provided Mr. Cooney’s report in his absence. The Recreation Committee will meet in the next few weeks to review Purvis park facilities, expenses, revenue and requested budgetary needs.

Safety Committee – Mr. Gould reported that the committee held its first meeting of the year just prior to this meeting and discussed the fireworks ordinance which has already outlined. Discussion was also held for the potential marketing plans for the Charter amendment that's been proposed, including touching on why our competitors are ahead right now when it comes to recruitment of top talent for the fire and police departments. And also, the ways that the charter amendment would complement the efforts that we're making to modernize our civil service process. Finally, Chief Perko provided an excellent report detailing parts of our relationship with the joint examination participation agreement that we entered into. They have been welcoming and helpful as we've transitioned into part of that team. Chief Perko said that the last examination had 17 individuals who came and tested now our pool will be expanded to approximately 100 to 200 candidates.

Mr. Gould added that he had just requested an opinion from the Law Director regarding the marketing and content and spending on the proposed Charter amendment in response to a question that was asked by Chief Rogers.

Service Committee – Mrs. Sax reported that she met with Service Director Jeff Pokorny and tour of the facilities, the equipment, the layout, to really have a good conceptual understanding of the service department, its needs and how to advocate and support and help the city in this manner. Mrs. Sax said a committee meeting would be scheduled soon.

Council Committee of the Whole – Mrs. Weiss stated that Council will have their Retreat Meeting on March 10, 2022 at Shaker Lakes. A facilities assessment presentation will be scheduling at the end of February.

Reports of special committees, and the taking of action thereon

None

Unfinished and miscellaneous business

None

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to return to regular session. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52p.m.

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council