

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Michele Weiss
Mrs. Sheri 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

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to excuse the absence of Mr. Cooney. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Council Minutes:

Council Meeting March 21, 2022

MOTION BY MRS. SAX, SECONDED BY MR. COONEY to table the March 21, 2022 Council Minutes. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Council Meeting March 7, 2022

Mr. Rach noted that there was a typo in his name on page 4.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to approve the March 7, 2022 Council Minutes as corrected. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Council Meeting April 4, 2022

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to table the April 4, 2022 Council Minutes. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Additions and Removals from the Agenda; Referrals to Committee

There were no additions or removals from the agenda.

Comments from Audience

Neo Martin, 2411 Saybrook informed everyone about nonprofit meetings space at Euclid Heights and Coventry in Cleveland Heights and stated that he was present tonight in representing Coventry peace and partner tenant organizations. In an effort to ensure the continued progress of establishing a permanent nonprofit Coventry peace, has notified the Heights Library Board members of their desire to purchase the building. The library’s refusal to continue its partnership with Coventry peace, is putting the entire project

in jeopardy. CPCs Coventry peace is independent from the library is the most valuable path, viable path forward and ensures the success of this community's supported project. Delivery has moved forward with repetitive facility studies at a cost of \$14,575 and is in the final stages of approving their contract with an outside facilities management company at a base cost of \$2,750 per month. The work performed by that company, which submitted the highest of all the bids received would be billed hourly. On top of that, CPC has provided most of the same services at no cost to the library for the last four years. In fact, CPC and library staff has discussed outside management. In 2018, and again in 2020, the library staff agreed at both of those times that it was unnecessary. No clear reason has been given for the abrupt change in 2021. No clear reason has been given for the roof change and our efforts to discuss these matters with the library have been rebuffed. Since the library board voted against the long term lease, the library has imposed a 25% Rent hike for CPC, and plans to pass the costs of a private management company into the tenants via significant rent increases. The consequences of these decisions have been made, made it much more difficult if not impossible to convert prospective organizations into permanent tenants and could result in several current tenants leaving the building or shuttering altogether placing the entire project in jeopardy. There is still time to mitigate the damage caused by the library boards misguided decisions CPC. purchasing the building from the library will involve all of the parties products. While the covered UPS campus project was formalized five years ago, many of the tenants have been working towards the same goal for much longer and the residents and community made it clear to more than 10 years ago that this was how they wanted to see the former school building use. CPC is independence as always got part was always part of the plan in 2018. Heights Library Executive Director Nancy Levin told Pat, our goal is for the tenants to be independent. We don't want to be landlords, we will be acting as a kind of incubator supporting the tenants until they can take over ownership of the management of the property themselves. While their library board declined the opportunity to do just this at the beginning of the year CPCs proposal to purchase the building as a solution from which everyone will benefit and one that can bring our organizations together again as partners serving the entire community that allows for the live Ready to devote his time and financial resources on its priorities and CPC to maintain and improve the building as an arts and community center with rents affordable to the members of that sector, your support and urging the library to meet with us to discuss the proposal would be greatly appreciated. We would all also welcome your little letters of support. This offer is a win win for the library for our nonprofit collaborative, and for the residents we all serve. It is way for us to keep the peace.

Mayor Brennan commented that as Mayor of University Heights, and as somebody who has followed this story for some time, and admittedly, as a former board member of future heights, familiar with the years of what it took to get to where you are now, he recognized and thought that most folks here, hopefully all folks here recognize that though this property is located in Cleveland Heights, it is just in much just as much in the interest of residents and leadership and University Heights to to see this succeed if possible. And and that this is something that augments not just the Cleveland Heights community, but the University Heights community and the greater community in general. Mayor Brennan said that he knows there are numerous people besides yourself who are from University Heights who use the facility, not the least of which is our own University Heights, symphonic band, but certainly not just them, and not just you. So I did not necessarily see coming the release today. But you know, I'm hopeful that a way is found to see the Coventry peace campus succeed and thrive.

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor report that On Wednesday, April 6 2022, a joint meeting of the city governments including University Heights and Cleveland Heights, the Heights Library Board and the Cleveland Heights – University Heights School District. All four governments and boards presenting on work each was doing to move the community forward. And I incorporate my report from that evening here and by reference, we had a meaningful discussion on heights career tech and on concerns raised by an organized group of survivors of sexual violence here in the community. My thanks to the University Heights Council members in attendance that evening, Michelle Weiss, Barbara Blankfeld, Justin Gould and Brian King. The next two joint meetings are set for Wednesday, June 29, 2022 and Wednesday, October 26, 2022, both at 6:30pm at the Cleveland Heights Rec Center. On Tuesday, April 12 2022, Mayor Brennan said he along with Cleveland Heights Mayor Khalil Seren, for an interview and discussion on local government sustainability and environmental justice. The forum is available on YouTube through the Cleveland Heights University Heights Chapter of the Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters. Mayor Brennan encouraged everyone to view the forum.

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

There was no report or communication from the City Council.

Reading and Disposition of Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Consideration of Agenda Items:**A. Presentation by Kwame Botchway and Elena Stachew – Introducing Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) and the benefits of becoming a PCFO Community**

Mr. Botchway was present to explain the Clean Future Ohio program and the benefits of having it University Heights and present a complete PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Botchway explained that Power to a Clean Future Ohio was a coalition of various sustainability and climate action organizations, nonprofits and technical experts who came together to provide support to cities all across Ohio. Mr. Botchway said that they recognized that there were a lot of cities in the area who were interested in pursuing clean energy, climate action and sustainability steps but did not have the resources, money or staff capacity to do it all on their own. With the coalition there are a number of technical experts who came together with various expertise to provide those services to the area cities. Mr. Botchway said that Ohio was one of the fifth largest emitters of greenhouse gas in the country and the renewable energy adoption in Ohio is relatively low compared to a lot of other places. In looking at the energy grid, you see that only 0.6% of so of the energy generation comes from solar. Where this may seem like a problem, it is also an incredible opportunity to take advantage and move into the future with renewable energy and Climate Smart Climate Solutions. Clean Future Ohio launched in 2020 and focuses solely on being a resource to communities in providing climate solutions, sustainability planning, and other resources to municipalities across the state. There are currently about 27 communities across Ohio and in Northeast Ohio, there are about seven and still expanding. The provided resources are completely free for cities. The city does not have to pay any money or make any financial commitments to get access to the resources that are provide. The Coalition is fully grant funded, some of the funds come from the Energy Foundation and other from local funders. The funds help the agency to keep the program running and to make sure that the provided resources to the member cities are free. There are four policy priority areas; clean energy, transportation efficiency, land use and energy efficiency.

As cities begin to transition from the fossil fuel powered vehicles to EV vehicles the agency helps with that planning as well as helping cities reduce emissions through local policy action. There is also the hope of growing the clean energy economy in Ohio through solar energy consulting. The agency also launched a program to help mayors and city governments, not just with grant application, but also them identify what grants they can use for specific projects within their communities. The agency offers a series of resources, one of which is sustainability and climate action plan. Mr. Botchway noted that Mayor Brennan had already committed to 30 by 30 where the city's carbon emission reductions would be 30% by the year 2030 and there has already been some movement towards that.

Mayor Brennan commented that Power Clean Future Ohio offers to a community like University Heights free of charge help with sustainability planning, and a myriad of different areas, different approaches that can be taken. The Mayor said last year, he took the 30 by 30 pledge on Earth Day 2021 and noting that pledge was based on 2010 numbers University Heights is already more than halfway there based upon things that are being done anyway. The remaining 13% could be made up with a concerted effort to bridge the gap a couple of different ways that can be done; one as a city government, seeing what can be done to reduce our own carbon footprint, and then also doing what can be done throughout the community with the help of Power a Clean Future Ohio.

Mr. Rach asked Mr. Botchway what were some of the low hanging fruit that the city could work with to help reduce some of the numbers that the local government could do as opposed to the state or federal levels?

It was noted by a few council members that people from Power Clean had already started to canvas the city and knock on doors.

Mr. Botchway replied that he thought it would be good to get a sustainability plan completed. That would help the city identify where the gaps are to reduce the greenhouse emissions. The group does greenhouse gas assessment to help identify where the gaps are and what are the highest contributors are. This is more aggregated by with an assessment so that the specifics can be determined. With those specifics in hand, the city can decide some of the things that it wants to do.

Mr. Gould thanked Mr. Botchway for the presentation and said that this was a topic that Council would be taking to the Committee of the Whole for a more in-depth conversation. Mr. Gould added that while he appreciated this as an initial foray into that, for the later conversation, one of the things that he would encourage Mr. Botchway and his colleagues to discuss and to be prepared to present on was that the one point of contact idea might not be appropriate in a setting such as this, where there are different roles within our municipal government. Mr. Gould said he was also interested to hear what cities like Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, who, like University Heights have a mix of people, for instance, University Heights just

had its first million-dollar home going on the market on the east side of the community. And then on the west side of the community there are several homes that are subjected to foreclosures and other issues. Thus, there is an economic divide. How can we focus those resources to those buildings, that those homeowners or citizens that may be struggling, may be working class may not may not qualify for government subsidies, but also can't afford to increase their profits by 20 or 30%? Those are some things that Mr. Gould said he would love to hear about at the committee of the whole meeting.

Mrs. Blankfeld stated that Mr. Botchway's presentation was enlightening and that she thought the committee of the whole would be eager to hear more in-depth information on how the city can implement a lot of the programs and do it in a financially sustainable way. Mrs. Blankfeld suggested that Mr. Botchway regrouped with some of the folks that are going door to door because hearing what you presented and hearing what the individual who was at her door Friday evening was very different in that the takeaway was that the resident did not have control over any of this because it was at the state or county or federal level, but it is actually something where home owner can make changes. Mrs. Blankfeld said that she thought that just a lot more education, and maybe just revisit how that message is being delivered by the employees out in the field canvassing would help.

Mr. Botchway thanked Mrs. Blankfeld for her comments and said that there are many different organizations within the coalition and doing different parts. Their work is focused primarily on the small municipalities, because they know that that is usually where the highest barriers are in terms of cost and capacity, so everything done is targeted towards those communities.

Mrs. Sax asked if there was a reference list of people from Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights or Solon that Council members could call to find out their experience.

Mr. Botchway said that he would get the contact information of people within all the communities in Northeast Ohio that we are working with to Mr. King.

Mr. King stated that he invited Mr. Botchway to speak here to start the conversation with this entire body and then continue it with the council committee of the whole. Mr. King noted that Mayor Brennan did sign the Power Clean Future Ohio 30 by 30 pledge last year, but in speaking with other people on council they want to have a better understanding what that means and by having this conversation here council can all have a better understanding on what is trying to be achieved and what opportunities might be available.

B. Motion to Extend the Solid Waste Disposal Services with (BFI) Browning-Ferris Industries

Mr. Pokorny stated that this was in regards to the city's solid waste disposal and transfer services. All collected garbage is the transferred over to BFI Browning Ferris Industries in Oakwood. Currently the city is under contract until September 30, 2022 and is paying \$41.20 per ton. When the contract expires in September it will require the renewal either now under option year number one, or the city will have to wait until the Solid Waste District for Cuyahoga County bids out their contract and then the city would join with the rest of the East Side consortium to join that contract.

Mr. Pokorny recommended that council approve going with option year number one that represents approximately a 3% increase and it will extend the contract until September of 2023. But by that time, the results of Cuyahoga County Solid Waste districts bidding process will be in and if it is lower or more advantageous, then we'll be able to join their contract at that time. Otherwise, the city would go back to Browning Ferris. Option year number two is not guaranteed under the contract the city would have to approach them with a letter and if they accept the extension year, then the city would continue for the one full year.

Mr. Rach clarified that they could go with option year one to extend the contract for a year, but if there is a bid with a consortium that is lower, the city is allowed to withdraw from that option for year one and go in with the consortium or the city can pick option one now and have to complete the option year and then join and go in with the consortium. Mr. Rach asked if that decision had to be made now.

Mr. Pokorny replied that they have to complete the option year first.

Mr. Rach asked how many years was the Consortium.

Mr. Pokorny said that it was generally three years but the last two have been two years and this as well is a two-year contract. And, the new one that is being bid is also a two-year contract.

Mr. Rach commented that they could go with option year one, but if the bid favorable, they could go in on year-two and three with the consortium.

Mr. Pokorny replied that the setup of the bidding as he understood it was that it would be the same as this current contract. There will be two years with two option years. So, if the city goes in, it will be in on the second year as well. Then we will have to again have the same discussion about option year number two and three.

Mr. Rach stated that that they don't know what those numbers are because they haven't been bid but we do know that there is a 3% increase to just extend another year.

Mr. Pokorny answered yes, if BFI accept it.

Mayor Brennan stated that it was worth mentioning that in 2019, the city was paying \$41.90 a ton which is more than what the city has been paying the last two years. While this is a 3% increase, it's going to go up 54 cents a ton over what we were paying back in 2019. Given these inflationary times, given the cost of fuel and other resources, this does seem to be an advantageous prudent thing to do because the figures are well in line. Mayor Brennan added that this was a number that the city could comfortably live with the increase through the option period ending September 30, 2023.

Mr. Pokorny said that this actually represents an increase of approximately \$6,000 a year and that the city does about 5000 tons of solid waste through the contract period.

Mr. Gould said that it was his understanding that with everything that has been going on over the past three or so years, these service providers are adding in fluctuations to the price so you get now a base level that then fluctuates based on Consumer Index and other indexes and issues. So that the gas prices go up for some reason that is built in and the municipalities see their rates increase even within the contract. Mr. Gould asked Mr. Pokorny if he thought that what was correct?

Mr. Pokorny said that he had not seen contracts like that. However, for example, in the past, the city has experienced add-ons for fuel. okay. For right now this contract does not right now allow for a fuel add-on.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX Authorizing the exercise option year one of the Solid Waste Disposal Services Contract with (BFI) Browning-Ferris Industries. On roll call, all voted "aye."

C. Ordinance 2022-21 Authorizing the Mayor to Extend the Agreement for Recycling Processing Services between University Heights and Kimble Company and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gould stated he had the opportunity to speak with Kimball in regards to this potential extension and the communication that he received is detailed inside of the letter attached to the council packet. Kimball said that they would be happy to continue to work with the city. Mr. Gould added that he knew that the entire council was concerned at the prospect of losing backyard recycling should the processor not want to work with the city anymore or if there may not be a response bids if the city were to go out for that? Mr. Gould said that he worked with Mr. McConville on this legislation authorizing the Mayor to extend the contract if so chosen. Noting the redline edits/changes Mayor Brennan placed on ordinance, Mr. Gould asked Mayor Brennan if the requested language change was simply to make this what the title says, which is an authorization not a command.

Mayor Brennan replied that his redlined changes also put the legislation more in line with the original resolution from a year and a half ago on September of 2020, where it said that the city shall authorize the mayor, in this instance, it may be a distinction without a difference. Mayor Brennan said he understood that the five sponsors of the legislation were in support of making this extension and he thought that the city was in a position where it really did not have a choice but to do that and commented that if council wanted to go with the original language for simplicity, he had no objection.

Mr. Gould said that he would be happy to make the changes that the Mayor suggested because he did not want to make it appear that he was rigid on those words as though they were very important because they are not. Mr. Gould said that he would make the red line suggestions from the Mayor in section one and noted that he believed those suggestions were emailed to all of council. In section one we would simply change the first words "the city shall" to "Council hereby approves the option two." and then the paragraph will continue "to extend the recycling agreement." And then it will also specify with whom the agreement is with, and that is with Kimble Company.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Amend section 1 of Ordinance 2022-21 to read ~~The City shall~~ “Council hereby approves option two to” extend the Recycling Agreement on its current terms according to the rates set therein for one year from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023 “with Kimble Company”. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mr. Gould said that in the same way, he had not thought about how this would interact with the consortium’s bid as they go out to bid but that he did understand that it should be that the consortium goes out to bid for the use of blue bags. And, that the city would be in contract for this period. As specified in the ordinance, there would be two ways that the city could exit or change during the contract period. The first was if the city changes its method of collection from bagged to loose, it would get the lower rate as specified in the contract currently, that is correct? Secondly, if the city switched methods from backyard to curbside and had a contractor of some type, or if the collection is done where it is brought down to the curbs, the city could leave the contract and canceling it completely, is that right?

Mr. Pokorny replied that Mr. Gould was correct and that he thought that the contractor (Kimble) agreed to change to the cost of loose recycling versus bagged recycling, is the way that paragraph reads.

Mayor Brennan referred everyone to the exhibit of the price sheet, page nine. The option for year one bagged is \$101.85 per ton and then if upon 60-day notice the city could if it had switched to loose recyclables, avail itself to the option year one rate for loose recyclables, which is \$73.20 per ton.

Mr. Gould said that he thought there was a portion in the contract for the city’s cancellation of the contract, because over a year or two ago when the contract was first signed, there was the prospect of changing to curbside collection. Mr. Gould stated that he thought that the Mayor had actually been added it in as a section that allowed the city to cancel the contract in its entirety.

Mr. Pokorny said that he believed that what Mr. Gould was referring to was if the city changed to a private outside contract it would have the ability to cancel the contract completely with 60-day notice.

Mr. Gould clarified that if the city were to change to an outside contractor for the collection of waste and recyclables such that it would not need to take it to the murf for processing, the city would be able to cancel the contract in its entirety. The final method by which the city would be able to end the first option year is if for some reason the consortium gets a bid back on blue bags, that’s more advantageous to the city. Then the city could join that consortium in the second regular year of that contract.

Mr. Pokorny said that Mr. Gould was correct, and noted that the one reason was because the collection method for recyclables was on the table at that time.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX for the Passage of Ordinance 2022-21, as Amended Authorizing the Mayor to Extend the Agreement for Recycling Processing Services between University Heights and Kimble Company and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. King agreed that this was really the only option that council had right now and that he thought that it also meant they were just kicking the can down the road again on improving the method of collection. Council has the recommendations of what is out there; the EPA, the Ohio EPA, the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District and the city’s very own study by GT Environmental’s recommendation that the city goes to curbside collection. In the presentation that was provided at the April 4, 2022 Council meeting by Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Executive Director of the Solid Waste District showed that the current collection method was akin to something from 1995. Mr. King said that he would like to see the city take a step into the present. But for now the only thing that can be done at this time was to pass this legislation.

Mrs. Sax said that with all due respect she believed that even though that was a very informative presentation by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, their report card is very clear that they fail to show with curbside automated collection, two thirds of the county still performed at or less than 13%, which is only 2% greater than Pepper Pike that has backyard collection with blue bags, Shaker Heights is 10% with loose backyard collection. Mrs. Sax said that she thought that the city could do better and she demonstrated that. She followed pages 31 to 35 of the 2020 Solid Waste Analysis study and there were recommendations in there where continuing backyard collection that could improve the recycling rate. Mrs. Sax said that she had not heard whether or not the city was going to consider any of the best practices that Shaker Heights and Pepper Pike does with their backyard collection. Mrs. Sax added that those practices that don’t cost much the city could get grants to make it more affordable for and that was verified by the presenter from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. We would see the benefits and could reap the benefits of a reduced rate if consideration was given to implementing backyard loose recycling. Mrs. Sax said that she thought that case was repeatedly made in the Service and Utilities Committee meetings and encourage the Mayor that they could have a conversation with administration about implementing some or all of those, or

any of those. Even if it meant that one of the recommendations was education and awareness. Mrs. Sax noted that the rubbish routes, which was also one of the recommendations has not been updated since 2004. There is plenty that can be done that doesn't cost anything or not very much to get started.

Mr. King stated that he did not see the value in investing in the current method. It's like putting lipstick on a Kubota. Mr. King said that he has looked at what the grant landscape is for recycling programs and almost everything is for 64 gallon and larger carts and not the smaller carts that would be necessary to maintain backyard recycling collection. Mr. King also said that he verified that there are grants that are only available for those and the recommendations of the various organizations such as the Ohio EPA say that curbside recycling is the method to use and that he did not see the city getting grants to continue the current collection method.

Mrs. Sax stated that she was a grant writer and that she was not sure what Mr. King based his belief that the city could not obtain any grants using the current collection method.

Mayor Brennan replied that it was based upon the fact that those grants were competitively scored and that the EPA has made a policy decision to encourage that containerized recycling be done in carts curbside. And, they are granting grants based upon those proposals which are in furtherance of the policy that they are endorsing. Mayor Brennan said that he would have to agree with Mr. King in that he also did not expect any grant to be successful based on what Mrs. Sax was describing.

Mrs. Sax commented so we go ahead and move the rubbish collection to the curb, where is the proof that the city's recycling is going to improve? If 41 out of 59 communities can't even increase much more than Pepper Pike, who does backyard. Are we going to invest all of that change and not ask our residents if that is the type of service, they would like to exchange for something else or nothing else? And, then not get significant results? Mrs. Sax said that she was still not sure that that case has been made?

Mr. Gould said that he appreciated the back and forth conversation on this issue. Mr. Gould said that he was able to listen to the sustainability conversation that was had with Future Heights, Cleveland Heights Mayor Seren and Mayor Brennan and he was thinking about how Mayor Brennan was talking about the recycling issues at the beginning of the conversation of how Cleveland Heights had switched over to this new system and how University Heights has not. Mr. Gould said that in his head, as a decision maker he still wanted the survey even though the Mayor will not send it out in its current form. Mr. Gould said he heard Mayor Seren talk about the sustainability committee that Cleveland Heights had and it was interesting when Mayor Seren said that they had this study, that they knew what needed to be done and that everyone else has done it and that the council counsel wanted to put it into a committee. Mr. Gould said what he appreciated about the position Mayor Seren took at that time, despite the fact that he disagreed with what his decision makers were asking for, was that he allowed that process to go forward. Mr. Gould added that while he appreciated that council was making the decision to have the survey and if Mayor Brennan did not want that data and he appreciated the position the administration had taken and that it has the capacity not to sign the contract, and would not send out the survey because it has the purview to do that. Mr. Gould added that if Mayor Brennan wanted council to revisit that, he, himself, someone who has said multiple times, that he wanted the survey and was willing to revisit backyard versus curbside once he had the opportunity to review that data, but not before.

Mrs. Blankfeld said that she agreed with Mr. Gold in that ultimately the decision should fall to the residents who are paying the taxes for these services. And until she hears from them; that they wish to make this change and pay for this change she has no impetus to change her way of thinking. Mrs. Blankfeld said that she represents the residents and that council were the stewards of their tax dollars.

Mayor Brennan responded to both of Mrs. Blankfeld's comments and said that the city did not survey the residents before it began discussing exercising option number one to start paying \$101.85 per ton to process recycles, nobody is paying more than that and that is an unprecedented amount of money that the city would be spending. Mayor Brennan said that when he hears responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, and that we're going to spend about \$102 a ton that doesn't go together. No survey is going to change what's going on in the world when it comes to methods of pickup, when it comes to what the what the best practices are with regard to collection of recyclables. These are things that we heard at the last meeting from Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, we heard extensively that the best practice is the containerized curbside method for picking up loose recyclables. And whether we issue a survey and ask residents what they think about that it doesn't change the fact that the world has moved on and University Heights has not kept up.

Mrs. Blankfeld stated that she still stood by the fact that the residents will ultimately be paying for this. And until she heard from them, that they wish to change it. The amount that was discussed about the contract for the solid waste, it is not a quarter of a million dollars for bins that have not been proven to increase recycling, how it gets from my door to my curb, whether it is the present way I do it or if it is in a fancy little bin. It

is not going to change because you recycle as only as much as Cuyahoga County permits you to recycle. There is a lot that goes in the rubbish because it is deemed as not recyclable in Cuyahoga County. To Mrs. Sax's point and to the study's point it needs to begin with education. Mrs. Blankfeld said that she did not think people can be asked to have their tax dollars spent that way or to make these major changes. A lot of people are not going to want this until you have educated them to increase their knowledge on how they can recycle. The city has all sorts of ways to spread the message in educating the public and we should take advantage of that. If we can make the residents better educated on how they can participate, then that level of recycling may increase, but Mrs. Blankfeld said that she has not seen that occurring yet.

Mrs. Sax offered two comments. Number one, let's move forward with loose recycling. We are entering a contract where in 60 days from tomorrow, we put in loose recycling at the backyard will reduce our rate once the contract is signed and goes into effect. Secondly, is actually something that Councilman King wrote recently on social media that got her thinking, the survey. Mrs. Sax said if she understood correctly, the Mayor does not wish to send out the survey because it does not have a cost benefit analysis, or anything about the cost of backyard versus curbside recycling. But what Councilman King wrote was that by changing our method of collection, it would reduce the number of staff needed for rubbish collection, which is the real cost savings, but it would redeploy them to doing other tasks in the city. Is that correct that we are not cutting labor force, we are redeploying them within the same department?

Mr. King replied that that was what he stated.

Mrs. Sax asked the Finance Director, Mr. Kennedy if that was the case would that mean that the cost would be the same, in the same department just found under a different line item?

Mr. Kennedy replied he believe so, but that he was not sure what the details were.

Mrs. Sax asked Mr. Pokorny if he was asking for two additional service people.

Mr. Pokorny replied that was correct.

Mrs. Sax continued to say that they were looking at increasing the number of service personnel, not reducing the cost. Perhaps there is a cost savings with the method of trash collection and there is of about \$700,000 plus some miscellaneous so approximately a million dollars. But, about three quarters of that is just moved around to another place. Mrs. Sax said that she would like to see the job descriptions, or at least the list of the tasks so that she can answer when residents ask her what the service will look like, what is the exchange of service, what is not being done in University Heights right now that will take four to six full-time equivalents employees service people to do that is not being done today? So then if that is the case, the customer service survey is not really being held up because of a question missing about cost. It is really being held up because when we want to know from our customers, our residents, how they would prefer spending this money that is not going to be a tax payer savings. Would they prefer spending this money to continue the backyard trash collection, or would they prefer bringing it to the curb and getting all these other services that four to six personnel are going to be providing? Mrs. Sax said that she thought that was the real question and that it is much more tangible because people can then say, well, I think that makes more sense. I'd like to see whatever it is A, B and C, being done that four to six people can do to improve the service in our city. The question about cost that is missing is not a real question, the real question is what is the service that we are asking the residents or customers that they would prefer to receive?

Mr. Pokorny replied that they had a conversation about automated recycling and what would be needed out of the truck in the way of manpower to do automated recycling. At that time, the discussion was about having two additional people to do that. But that did not mean that an additional two people were being added to the staff for that. Mr. Pokorny said that the two additional staff people that he was requesting at the beginning of the year had to do with road repairs, landscaping, with more people at the park doing things that needed to be done when we took on the responsibilities of the park. That was what he was asking for additional people for, not for rubbish. In regards to the study and the six people that keeps getting pulled out; the study had indicated that you could reduce staffing on the carts, rubbish trucks and on the route in general by automating. You will run less routes and have less people doing them. And at that time, the response to council was that we would do it through attrition. We never talked about firing anybody to do this, it was going to be through attrition that we would lose those positions. In this conversation that we are having today and if we were to automate we could do it with still reducing staff, but reassigning them to automated trucks and still end up with extra people to possibility take care of the park. However, right now, we have hired contractors to do the catch basin cleaning, repairs of the sewer laterals and things like that. We also hire contractors every once in a while, to do road repairs or, as council has seen over the last four to six months, road repairs go on done until staffing changes during the summer when there is more to possibly reduce what we're doing in other areas. All of those things could be done in a timelier manner if we had the proper staffing. That was why the two additional people were asked for.

Mr. Rach repeated Mrs. Sax's question on what would the city gain by asking all 14,000 residents to wheel their carts to the street because the response was that we would get road repair, sewer repair, etc., but we get those services now. Mr. Rach said that he wanted to hear what was something that the city does not have and would get by having residents lug the carts to the street 52 times a year.

Mr. Pokorny replied that residents would also get their catch basin in front of their house repaired maybe within a couple of weeks, rather than several months.

Mayor Brennan said he would propose using some of that money to enhance Senior Services. But I want to go back to September of 2020, we made a presentation at a public meeting where we talked about some of these very same things and we talked about numbers. Because there was no reason to paraphrase, Mayor Brennan read from his prepared notes so that he could say exactly what he said a year and a half ago, which is to be clear. This is not merely about saving money that we will, this is about improving service. Our service department liberated picking up trash four days a week would now be free to work more efficiently on all of their other projects and tasks described earlier. Road repairs would be made in days, not weeks or months, sewer repairs, the same work that we previously privatized, our contract for emergency repairs, our tree program, our mainline sewer, televising and cleaning programs. Portions of these programs can be moved back in house. For example, in 2019, we used our emergency repair contractor for three storm sewer, lateral repairs, 11 catch basin repairs and 13 roadway repairs at a cost of the city of \$91,323. What was the emergency that required the use of the emergency contractor? Time, the fact that we were out of time, all those repairs we could have done in house. We just didn't have the time. Our service department picks up trash four days a week minimum because special pickups are usually caught up on the fifth day. And that is one of the things that you didn't factor into your numbers is the fact that for instance in 2019 we hired an outside contractor and spent over \$91,000 having them do work we could have done in house if only we had the people or the time and since we don't have either the people or the time. Every year since I've been Mayor, we've had this ritual where orange barrels and orange cones pop up all over the city. And they're there. They're all spring, they're there all summer and then we come into the fall. And then we want to get this stuff fixed before winter. We don't want plow trucks out there trying to dodge cones, even though that did happen this year. And what we do is we end up bringing in the emergency contractor and spend \$10s of \$1000s, sometimes six figures catching up on stuff that we are perfectly capable of doing in house but don't have the time to do and don't have the personnel to do. And that is one of the things that could be gained. It is the opportunity cost of having the people here to do the work, the work is here. But we don't have enough people and we don't have enough time to do all the work, we end up paying more money out to outside entities calling it an emergency because we're out of time. And it isn't just a matter of convenience about whether a catch basin is there for a few days or a couple of weeks or a couple of months. Sometimes these are repairs that even when they're marked off, and are road hazards and become emergencies. We've had to pay out claims because people have hit things that were in the road that were there like that, and the city was aware of it for some time. And we shouldn't be running the city like that we don't have to run the city like that. And this is a way of, of right sizing what we do as a city so that we are spending an appropriate amount of time doing the solid waste, pickup and handling. And then doing all the other things that we expect our public service department to do, or just need to be done, but they can't get to. And this is the crux of it, being able to take care of certain things in house that we haven't been able to do. And that is the big part of where the savings is. That isn't even in the solid waste study. That's simply looking at how we spend our time with this department, what our employees are doing, and what all the work is to do. And then looking at the line items for all the emergency work that we've agreed can be done. And then we actually have to do and that is what we ought to be looking at. Those are things that we need to be considering. When we look at this and we can either hire more people or we can we can adjust what the labor is that is needed on solid waste pickup so that we have freed up people to do this work.

Mrs. Weiss commented that she knew that they had gone over this many, many times but she asked Mr. Pokorny when he was talking about losing four to six people through attrition and then when he stated that they could be reassign. We really not letting those people go through attrition, because those four to six people are going to be resigned and on top of it we are going to have to pay for our garbage new company/new vendor to come and pick up the garbage like Kimball or whoever, correct? We are never going to save on employees. Everybody is talking about savings, but we are not saving because we are not getting rid of people through attrition, and we are going to have to start another service on top of that.

Mr. Pokorny replied that the four to six people that are being mentioned were part of the study and again, you (council) refer back to the study constantly as to what they said they could do. Mr. Pokorny said that he did not necessarily think that four to six people was the actual number. But that could be debated and we could bring our consultant back in and he can identify how he did those numbers. everybody is talking about savings. But we're not saving because we're not getting rid of people through attrition, and we're going to have to start another service on top of it.

Mr. Pokorny said that there would be a savings through automation. Overtime automation will save in many different ways. It's going to save by injuries on the workers and it will eventually reduce staffing. Unless, we use that staffing to improve the park by mulching, adding flowers, all the other things he has been getting emails about.

Mrs. Weiss asked for a ballpark figure of how many, how much outsourcing is done with catch basins repairs of sewers, road repairs that our own staff can cannot get to, a few \$100,000?

Mr. Pokorny said he did not have that number.

Mayor Brennan commented that the number that they used at the September 20th meeting was \$327,000. That was a number that Mr. Pokorny and Mr. Kennedy and he worked on together a year and a half ago.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was about a million-dollar contract value over three years.

Mr. Gould stated that part of the issue of what happened thereafter was that he believed Vice Mayor Weiss asked for a breakdown of what was contract versus what we would be doing in house. If there was any increase in the machinery or equipment that we would need or expertise that we would need in order to do that in house, what the cost of that would be, and then what the cost of the contract labor would be per hour, let's say versus what we would pay for that per hour for in house services. But then there were the cost saving issues and the issues that Councilman Rach brought up about amenities. The Mayor at one point talked about how much more beautiful our neighborhood could be if we had hanging baskets that could be watered by our service individuals, if there were green spaces in between our streets rather than just cement. Those are not things that have not been said by the Administration, Mr. Gould did not want to suggest that, you know, these ideas of what we could get have never been said or that the Mayor has been hiding the new ideas because he said those things. In looking at Cleveland Heights new method for rubbish collection, one of the things that we heard time and time again from our University Heights elders is that they are not going to be able to bring the bins down the steep slopes, etc. and certainly not in the middle of the winter. Cleveland Heights has addressed that in two ways in their new system. One, it allows for individuals who are seniors 65 and older to request a smaller bin that may be easier for them to manage. So, we don't all have to use a large bin, it could be a much smaller bin and maybe there is a cost savings there. Secondly, there is a disability program that Cleveland Heights runs, where individuals who have disabilities will sign up with the city and the service department will send out a crew, and they will wheel their 64-gallon bin or whatever size their bin is down to the road for them every week on trash day. That was part of the reason we wanted the survey to go out because there were all of these issues when it came to ability and what that cost might be for University Heights. Because when we were looking at the maximum cost savings under the study that requires us to do what the Vice Mayor noted and that was outsourcing. The most cost savings comes from switching to Kimble or another contractor to do this. It does it does away with the need for service yard, it does away with the need of a mechanic, it does away with the need of maintaining an entire ecosystem of trash collection in our small city. But that is something that seems that we are moving away from at least from an administrative priority in the last several months. Mr. Gould said he heard that that was not really what we are looking at. We are really looking at an in-house collection with in-house machinery, in-house staffing, which is less of a cost savings but still a cost savings. So as with this automation, is it a one run through the city? Can University Heights be done in a one automated run? Is it going to be done over multiple days? What is the additional cost, how much are we not saving by maintaining collection of these bins is it 2% of our city, 5% of our city or 10% of the city that needs assistance with those? Those are things that go not just to ability and to preference. We talked about this a lot about preference What do residents want, what are they wanting to pay for this do they not want it? And although Mr. Gould said he appreciated that, it is technical and frankly not as much his concern. Mr. Gould's concern is having we included them in that process and as their elected representative, Mr. Gould said he would make that decision at the end of the day about what he thinks is best for the city and noted that he has said before, on the record that he thinks automation is coming to University Heights and that it is unavoidable. Mr. Gould also said that he would not vote for that until and unless he had the data from the survey. And once he has the data from the survey he will revisit it.

Mayor Brennan noted for the recorded that he wanted to be clear and that his position is and continues to be that if the questions about cost are included in the survey, then then he would be happy to release the survey. The survey needs those questions. The Mayor stated that he knew that they had a presentation by Beth Biggins-Rayner on behalf of the Solid Waste District they are also willing to do a survey but as she also expressed questions about costs are appropriate and that their survey would also include questions about cost. Mayor Brennan reminded everyone that this particular contract was controversial a year and a half ago when we passed it. We couldn't even get the five votes needed to pass it on emergency a year and a half ago, so we had to float for a little while with Kimball and assured them that we would sign this contract after the first of October. Three councilpersons voted against it. And, you know, I appreciate that that one or more of those three are probably going to vote for the option this time because they are all sponsors now.

But the thing is, is that the thing that we need to do doesn't change with the survey results. We know that that the world has changed, we know that the best practice has to do with using containerized pickup, having loose pickup. Mayor Brennan said he wanted to be very clear to Mrs. Sacks, in that he was not going to take time with this administration trying to fashion the Shaker Heights method of pickup in University Heights. That is that is the wrong direction and nobody is granting grant money for that. Mayor Brennan added that he would be embarrassed to sign for that grant and that he was not going to do that. Our focus here should be on modernization, it should be on getting to where the rest of the world is in a modern sense. And the studies nationally are that recycling improves with the larger containers.

Additional back and forth discussion were had regarding this item, the number of employees, reduced staffing, the cost of recycling and the recycling market.

Roll call on the suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”

D. Ordinance 2022-22 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 1246.01 Entitled “General Provisions” for the Purpose of Expanding Membership on the Architectural Review Board, and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. McConville stated that this ordinance would expand the membership on the Architectural Review Board and that there were three revisions made to Codified Ordinance Section 12 46.01. The first is in subsection (c)(1) where the number of members is expanded from three (3) members to five (5) members. The second change is in subsection (c) where language was included that relates to the staggering of terms during 2022. Otherwise leaves the specifics of how members terms will be staggered to council to decide on the floor. Mr. McConville noted that what he drafted indicates that terms are for three years, and that at least one term will expire each year. That is a little bit different from the from an apple to apples change. Before at least in theory was that there were three members and there were staggered terms three to one in duration originally. You could replicate that with five-year terms and have appointments of 54321. Although Mr. McConville suggested that a five-year term would be a term that would perhaps be too lengthy to ask a citizen to commit. This retains the three year terms and allows you to stagger them this evening on the floor. The last revision was made to subsection (d), where the language that says Approval of an Application submitted to the ARB shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum, that is to make sure that the ARB remains more accessible to those people who have projects that need their review and not less accessible by virtue of needing majority of all members.

Mrs. Weiss asked Mr. Rach and other members of Council their opinion of having at least one board member be certified register architect in Ohio.

Mrs. Blankfeld said that she would like to see more than one Ohio register architect.

Mayor Brennan said that especially since the board is being expanded, he did not want to make it too great of a hurdle to fill all five positions over time. Mayor Brennan commented that there are five good people now, but years down the road if we have fewer architects living in this community and right now we are requiring registered architects that are residents. And, only if there's not a sufficient number of registered architects available one member maybe from a related profession. Maybe what Mrs. Weiss was saying that we could have one that is registered in the State of Ohio, but maybe at the same time we loosen some of the other requirements. Maybe that a preference is given to residents, but we could look outside the community as well; or maybe two or even three members could be from a related profession.

Mr. Gould said that he would have more of a concern about an individual who doesn't live in the city making these decisions versus their registrations. And to the Mayor's comment Mr. Gould said he thought that perhaps his concerns would be addressed in the second sentence of section (c)(1) that states if a sufficient number of registered architects are not available, one member may be from another related profession, if the person has demonstrated an interest experience or knowledge in architecture. The way that it is stated in (c)(1) it allows for the administration to make a broader range of appointments than it otherwise would, if we made that a requirement, the body can always decide that an individual appointment isn't qualified. Mr. Gould suggested that language could say registered architects, the majority of which must be registered in the State of Ohio. And if it comes to a point down the line where the Mayor can't find anyone that is registered in the State of Ohio and that lives in University Heights, then a change would have to be made and the law would have to be changed.

Mrs. Blankfeld said that she just did not want to see an Architectural Board of Review with people who simply have an interest or somewhat of a knowledge making those decisions.

Mr. Rach said that he would agree that the majority of the body could be registered in Ohio and that they would not have to be the majority of the quorum that day, being the majority of the body would suffice.

Mr. Gould offered that the first paragraph, first sentence that currently reads the Architectural Review Board shall consist of five registered architects who shall be residents of the City of University Heights. If that was changed to “the Architectural Review Board shall consist of five registered architects, the majority of whom shall be registered as architects by the State of Ohio, and who shall be residents of the City of University Heights,” and asked if that amendment that would satisfy those who have the concerns? That appeared to be fine with everyone.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Amend the first line of the Section (c)(1) of proposed 1246.01 General Provisions attached as Exhibit A to read “The Architectural Review Board shall consist of five registered architects, the majority of whom shall be registered as architects by the State of Ohio, and who shall be residents of the City of University Heights. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mr. McConville asked that there be an amendment to section (c)(4) so that the words at the very end of that section “every three years” be deleted and substituted with the words “each year” so that it reads “in which case the term shall be staggered so that at least one term expires each year.”

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to amend section (c)(4) so that the words at the very end of that section “every three years” be deleted and substituted with the words “each year” so that it reads “in which case the term shall be staggered so that at least one term expires each year.” On roll call, all voted “aye”

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD for the passage of Ordinance 2022-22 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 1246.01 Entitled “General Provisions” for the Purpose of Expanding Membership on the Architectural Review Board on Emergency as amended. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”

Mr. Gould asked if it was necessary to enter into executive session to discuss the terms of what will be the newly appointed ARB members and the re-appointed members or if that discussion could be help in the open forum.

Mayor Brennan replied that he felt it would be better to have that discussion and decision made in the open meeting.

Mrs. Weiss stated that Mr. Rach spoke to the current ARB members and that they individually came to a consensus on how they wanted to stagger their terms.

Mr. Rach reported that Mr. Kieley, whose employment had been in flux, because he was traveling to North Carolina and back causing him to miss a few meetings this last year. Mr. Kieley employment circumstances may or may not be changing so he preferred to have the term that expires in one year. The other two re-appointed members did not have a preference if they had the term that expires in two years or the term that would expire in three years. But both of them were excited about the two incoming members not having the one year because they would like them to really be solid in the ARB where one would have a three and one would have a two-year term.

Mr. Gould asked Mayor Brennan if he had a preference of term duration for the new appointment members Mr. Chesnes and Mrs. Huyen. And if you mind if for the re-appointments that Mr. Caito has the three-year term and Mr. Cucciarre had the two-year term.

Mayor Brennan replied that he would suggest the three-year appointment for Mr. Chesnes and the two-year appointment for Mrs. Huyen and that he was fine with Mr. Caito having the three-year term and Mr. Cucciarre having the two-year term.

Mayor Brennan asked if there was any consensus of the new members who received the three or two-year term. Mr. Rach said neither had a preference.

Mr. Gould asked if any member of council wanted the five appointments voted on separately or if they could be voted on as a slate.

Mr. Rach stated that he intended on abstaining on one of the recommendations so they should probably be done separately.

E. Motion to Confirm the Appointment of Tommy Chesnes to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MR. KING, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Confirm the Appointment of Tommy Chesnes to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

F. Motion to Confirm the Appointment of Lyly Huyen to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Confirm the Appointment of Lyly Huyen to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

G. Motion to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Michael Cucciarre to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. SAX, SECONDED BY MR. KING to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Michael Cucciarre to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

H. Motion to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Michael Caito to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Michael Caito to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Rach, who “abstained.”

I Motion to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Richard Kieley to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022

There was no further discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. SAX, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Richard Kieley to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Three (3) Years or a Partial Term Effective February 1, 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

J. Motion to Accept Bid from Top Level Lawn Service LLC of Cleveland, Ohio for the 2022 Yard Nuisance Abatement Program with the Amounts not to exceed \$35 per house for High Grass; \$30 per hour for Shrub Trimming; \$25 per hour for Leaf Cleanup and \$25 per hour for Debris Removal

Mr. Englebrecht reported that Top Level Lawn Service has been same contractor that the city has used for the last two years for yard abatements. Once again out of the three received bids, Top Level Lawn Service

submitted the lowest bid. The bids were advertised in the newspaper on March 24 and March 31 and were publicly opened on April 6 by Mrs. Thomas and himself at 12noon.

Mr. Rach asked if the prices were the same as last year because the price of gasoline has gone up.

Mr. Englebrecht replied yes, the prices are the exact same as last year.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. KING to Accept Bid from Top Level Lawn Service LLC of Cleveland, Ohio for the 2022 Yard Nuisance Abatement Program with the Amounts not to exceed \$35 per house for High Grass; \$30 per hour for Shrub Trimming; \$25 per hour for Leaf Cleanup and \$25 per hour for Debris Removal. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

K. Motion to Approve the Purchase of Pool Chemicals for 2022 from SAL Chemical

Mr. Pokorny stated that this was for the purchase of pool chemicals that are used at Purvis Pool though the summer. University Heights is part of a consortium of about eight cities on the east side of town. The city of Mayfield Heights runs the bidding process. This year, Sal Chemical was the lowest and sole bidder because Op Aquatics Mr. Pokorny recommended awarding the chemical bid for pool chemicals this year to Sal Chemical and noted that he did not have a dollar amount but estimated a cost of \$18,000 to \$21,000. Mr. Pokorny provided members of council with all the different chemicals that are used along with a list previous pricing. This year's price did increase significantly about 200% or \$1.43 extra per gallon for chlorine, but we will need these chemicals.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to Approve the Purchase of Pool Chemicals for 2022 from SAL Chemical in an amount not to exceed \$21,000. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

L. Motion Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Legal Proceedings, Personnel and Real Estate Matter

Executive session was not needed.

Director’s Reports

Finance Department – Mr. Kennedy reviewed some highlights of the financial activity reports that he sent out to council members. Through the first quarter ending March 31, the general fund revenue amounted to \$4,619,835.94. R.I.T.A tax collections were up 7.9% over last year; and 2021, the first quarter collections were \$2.47 million. This year, that number is approximately 2.67. That entire difference of \$197 to \$200,000 is almost 100% attributable to an increase in withholding taxes. Individual net profit collections so far, are within a half a percent of what they were last year. Mr. Kennedy provided a couple updates as well. The department is finishing up the audit for the CIC and the city. We're hoping to have a CIC meeting next week or two to approve the financial reports in the IRS filing for 2021.

Law Department – Mr. McConville stated that he was asked to draft an ordinance regarding soliciting and peddling and that he provided a draft ordinance to Mr. Gould along with Police Chief Rogers for comments and then it will be present back to committee. Mr. Gould said that that legislation would be at the Safety Committee meeting just prior to the first regular scheduled Council meeting next month at either 5:30 or 6pm.

Service Department – Mr. Pokorny reminded everyone that April is loose leaf collection of curbside leaves and untied brush.

Housing and Community Development – Geoff Englebrecht stated that the request that he had emailed Council with renderings for the curb bump outs for the approval of the grant, at least at this point is not at that level of readiness according to NOACA. There are two primarily next steps, the first being that the award letter has to be signed. The second would be the scope of services, which is being done by Mr. Ciuni.

City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni reported that construction season has started. Notice to proceed has been given to the contractor for the Traymore the water line replacement. That work will occur on Traymore there is from Warrensville Center Road down to Hillbrook for about 1600 feet of water line to be replaced.

Their notice to proceed is April 25. At the same time, notice to proceed on May 2 was given to the contractor for the Cedar Road sewer repairs.

The big contract is the Cedar Road resurfacing project which will be done in phases. The state of Ohio was given notice to proceed for April 25. Phase one is from Miramar to Green Road. Construction will start on the South Euclid side of the road as far as construction goes and the maintenance of traffic flow. Then things will move to the University Heights south side of the road starting in April to approximately sometime around June 1. Then they will switch to the other side of the road and complete everything between Miramar and So. Green and then switch from A to phase two which is South Taylor to Fenwick. Everything is subject to weather and conditions that how they do. The work has to be completed by October 31st by contract.

Economic Development – Susan Drucker reported that three new businesses would be opening in May. The first one is a clothing store, Timeless Fashions will be located at 2243 Warrenville center Road, in the former Rosie space. The second business is Drip Apparel, 2181 South Taylor Road in University Corners. The third business opening is a new tailor seamstress, Amy Roth and she will also be located at 2245 Warrenville Center Road on the second floor. With the new stores opening, that will then bring our vacancy rate down to 5.48%.

There were no other director reports.

Standing Council Committees:

Building and Housing – Mrs. Blankfeld stated that the committee has a number of things that it will be continuing to address. The next is working with Prosecutor Cicero and looking at a very comprehensive review of the codified ordinances and how they relate to Building and Housing.

Mayor Brennan asked if the committee was also reviewing the engineering fee matter. Mrs. Blankfeld replied yes.

Community Outreach – Mr. King reported that he has been working with the Technology Advisory Commission Chairpersons Christine Hudak and John Chang regarding the RFP for managed security services for the City of University Heights. They received from Rhea and Associates a very comprehensive template and they are plugging in the information that is needed. The Tech Advisory Committee met on March 8th with a presentation by Paul Hilgenberg of Rhea and Associates regarding their technology audit of the city. Following the presentation members of council voted to begin the RFP process to secure a managed security service provider to take over management of the city's IT infrastructure. The Technology Advisory Commission will meet again to review a draft of that of that document to continue to move forward and have permanent IT services for the city.

Safety Committee – Mr. Gould stated that the committee will have the peddler ordinance coming up and that he would be meeting with the chiefs and prosecutor to set the agenda for the next committee meeting that will include the peddler's ordinances, presentation from the City Engineer and street stripping company.

Service Committee – Mrs. Sax stated that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 at 7pm has been cancelled but will be reschedule to allow full administration to be present as well as members of the committee and other council members.

Reports of special committees, and the taking of action thereon

None

Unfinished and miscellaneous business

None

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted "aye."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55p.m.

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council