

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
MONDAY, MAY 2, 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
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

Approval of Council Minutes:

Council Meeting March 21, 2022

Council Meeting April 4, 2022

Council Meeting April 18, 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

There were no comments from the audience

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

Mayor’s Report

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

On April 26, 2022, for the purposes of eliminating blight, we issued to University Square Real Estate Holdings LLC the City of University Heights’ “Notice of Intent to Acquire” the core real estate parcel comprising real property and improvements at 2203 Warrensville Center Road. Served with that notice was a copy of the appraisal of the property obtained by the City. We have offered the appraisal price of \$1.2 million. They have ten days to appeal the decision of the City to acquire the property, to object to the designation of blight, or contest the valuation. They have 30 days to accept, reject, or negotiate and come to terms. After that, the City may proceed with filing an eminent domain action in Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

On that same date, April 26, 2022, for the purposes of eliminating blight, we issued to University Square Parking LLC the City of University Heights' "Notice of Intent to Acquire" the parking garage parcel comprising real property and improvements at 14060 Cedar Road. Served with that notice was a copy of the appraisal of the property obtained by the City. We have offered the appraisal price of ONE DOLLAR. They have ten days to appeal the decision of the City to acquire the property, to object to the designation of blight, or contest the valuation. They have 30 days to accept, reject, or negotiate and come to terms. After that, the City may proceed with filing an eminent domain action in Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

This story is developing. As the city council and I represented to the community last fall, we will not allow the University Square development to continue to be blighted and in a failed state. We are now on the clock. And we will do what it takes to move forward.

ZONING CODE UPDATE

Last week, the administration and ZoneCo completed negotiation of the contract that council previously authorized the City to enter to perform a comprehensive update of the City's zoning code. The contract is now fully executed. The scope of the services reflects the scope of their original proposal. Based upon that scope, ZoneCo is preparing a proposed project plan for proceeding. Economic Development Director Susan Drucker is serving as Project Manager of this project, and will be taking lead on this project for the City.

SOLID WASTE SURVEY THIS SUMMER

As reported last week, I am pleased to announce that the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District has executed a contract with RRS (Resource Recycling Systems) to assist the City of University Heights in developing a survey to gauge residents' interest in implementing a more automated/curbside solid waste management collection system.

This is being done at no cost to the City. It is an opportunity to start fresh, move forward, creating a solution, and resolving a problem.

RRS will coordinate and schedule a kickoff meeting with the Evaluation Team to occur in the second half of May. The Evaluation Team is slated to include the Mayor, Service Director (Jeff Pokorny), Chair of the City Council Service and Utility Committee (Councilmember Sheri Sax), City Council's Representative to the Citizens Committee on Sustainability (Councilmember Brian King), two citizen representatives appointed by the Mayor (TBA), two citizen representatives appointed by Council (TBA), the Solid Waste District Executive Director (Beth Biggins-Ramer), and the RRS Consultant (Erin Oulton).

This is a balanced approach, with representatives of city council, administration, and citizen stakeholders all at the table providing input.

We are currently compiling information requested by the Solid Waste District in preparation for the kickoff meeting. I ask that council select its two citizen representatives in the next week or so, to keep this project on track.

All University Heights residents may expect to receive a mailer this summer with instructions on how to respond to the survey. Results will be delivered to the Solid Waste District and the City by the end of August, with report made at City Council in September.

On behalf of residents, I appreciate the assistance of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, their willingness to help, and all courtesies extended. I look forward to working together on this project to accurately survey the people of University Heights.

[note: later at the meeting, City Council voted 5-2 to transfer \$10,000 to fund the issuance of the survey they wrote. The Solid Waste District agreed to fund and issue a professionally written survey after reviewing council's survey.]

SIGN UPDATE

Since the last meeting, administration took a meeting with Guide Studio, who helped the City rebrand itself in 2018, and who designed the new signage in 2019 for the Priority One Sign Program. With the sign program in the 2022 budget, Guide Studio is reviewing the program's scope and the proposed bid sheet. We may be ready as soon as the next council meeting to seek council consideration for going out to bid.

KIMBLE AND REPUBLIC-BFI

Following up on council approval at the last meeting, the City has given notice to Kimble of its intention to exercise the option year in the recycling contract, and notice to Republic-BFI to exercise the option in the

rubbish contract. The new Kimble rate for processing bagged recycling effective October 1 will be \$101.85. As for Republic, they are willing to extend, however, a drafting error in the contract has been noted. The bid figure for the option year properly reflected a 50 cent increase in county fees effective 1-1-23, which raises the option rate from \$42.44 to \$42.94/ton. At an extra 50 cents a ton from January 1 to September 30, 2023, at an estimated 3,750 tons, this is an estimated additional \$1,875 in fees. At the next council meeting, administration will seek council approval for the correction.

MARK McARTOR

Last Friday we celebrated Lt. Mark McArtor's law enforcement career on the occasion of his retirement. He had been with the City of UH since July 20, 1989. Over the years, Lt. McArtor served as the DARE officer, served on the SWAT team, served as the administrator of the Office of Community Policing. Since 2017, Lt. McArtor has served at the Lieutenant overseeing the Uniform Patrol Division. From fingerprinting, to acting as Vehicle Pursuit Investigator, to oversight of Traffic, Bike, and Auxiliary units, and the School Crossing Guards, Lt. McArtor was a dedicated and widely admired public servant. At a time when fewer people are choosing law enforcement as a profession, we could use more people like Lt. McArtor, who served with honor, compassion, and distinction. We wish Mark McArtor good health and many years of happiness to come.

ARBOR DAY

Last Friday, Cleveland Heights Mayor Kahlil Seren joined me in the planting of an Arbor Day tree, a Red Sunset Maple. When mature, this tree should be 45 to 50 feet tall. In the fall, its leaves should be red and orange blending to give a sunset effect.

This tree is our "Census Tree." The community will recall the friendly wager between our cities that we made during the 2020 Census. In an effort to promote responses to the census, our cities made a bet about which city could better improve its census response rate. While University Heights did well overall, Cleveland Heights made the bigger improvement during the month of June 2020. And thus, University Heights provided the tree to be planted in Cleveland Heights, within view of University Heights (all UH houses across the street from the tree), by the Delisle Center – a facility of our shared public school district.

In previous Arbor Day celebrations, I recited poems by Wendell Berry, Phillip Larkin, and Joyce Kilmer. Friday was the first Arbor Day tree planting I've participated in since Neil Peart passed away from cancer on January 7, 2020. As many know, Peart was the drummer and principal lyricist for the band Rush. And so I recited his lyrics to "The Trees."

*There is unrest in the forest
There is trouble with the trees
For the maples want more sunlight
And the oaks ignore their pleas*

*The trouble with the maples
And they're quite convinced they're right
They say the oaks are just too lofty
And they grab up all the light*

*But the oaks can't help their feelings
If they like the way they're made
And they wonder why the maples
Can't be happy in their shade?*

*There is trouble in the forest
And the creatures all have fled
As the maples scream, "oppression"
And the oaks just shake their heads*

*So the maples formed a union
And demanded equal rights
"The oaks are just too greedy
We will make them give us light"*

*Now there's no more oak oppression
For they passed a noble law
And the trees are all kept equal*

By hatchet, axe, and saw

May the Census Tree grow and thrive as the communities of University Heights and Cleveland Heights continue to grow and thrive, together, in partnership, for the mutual and common good.

ELECTION DAY IS HERE

And Issue 20 is on the ballot.

Issue 20 would make it easier for University Heights to hire police and firefighters.

On May 3, University Heights voters will see a ballot issue with this language:

Shall Article 7, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of University Heights be amended to allow the City's Civil Service Commission to enact Rules to expand the number of permitted eligible candidates who may be appointed to open positions in the Police and Fire Service?

What does it mean?

A “yes” vote by the majority of voters would allow the University Heights Civil Service Commission to certify as many candidates for the Police or Fire Department as it deems necessary when hiring. A “no” vote would maintain the status quo.

Currently, when Police or Fire needs to make hires, the city charter restricts the Civil Service Commission to certify only three candidates out of all those who take the police or fire entrance exam. As a result, University Heights often loses qualified candidates to other cities.

When we certify that list of just three, we know that candidates have taken exams all over (in other communities). We can certify for hiring three people and only then discover that all three people have taken jobs someplace else. Then we have to wait till the next meeting (a month later) and repeat that process again with another three people – only to learn they too have taken other jobs. And so on.

The Issue 20 charter change comes at a time when area communities are having a difficult time attracting candidates to take tests for police and fire jobs, which makes the pool of candidates from which area safety forces can choose even smaller.

Issue 20 will allow the City to cast a wider net over the pool of qualified applicants, and land new police officers and fire fighters faster and before they get job offers elsewhere.

Issue 20 has the unanimous support of mayor and city council.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON ISSUE 20.

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

Vice Mayor Weiss reported that the Tech Advisory Committee met to review an RFP for contract services. She thanked Councilman King for continuing this process. She noted that there may be another meeting; if not, the final version will be sent to Council.

There will be a Finance and Strategic Planning committee meeting this week to continue to update internal controls and to complete cash flow projections.

Mrs. Weiss read a letter from a Canterbury Road resident, regarding trash and recycling. One of the suggestions made by the resident is to place both surveys online and have available in print; he also urged that both surveys should be highlighted and not show favor to either; let the residents pick. (Letter attached hereto)

There were no other reports from Council.

Reading and Disposition of Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Consideration of Agenda Items:**A. Resolution 2022-26 Resolution Proclaiming May 2022 Bike Month in the City of University Heights**

Mayor Brennan read the resolution in its entirety for the record. He thanked Councilman Brian King for working with Mrs. Thomas to get this year's bike month resolution prepared, noting that this is passed annually; this is the fifth year.

Councilman King noted that he will be leading the Ride of Silence from John Carroll University on May 18, riding to University Hospitals; there will be a ceremony there. This is celebrated across the country and internationally on the same date.

MOTION BY MR. KING, SECONDED BY MR. COONEY to adopt Resolution 2022-26 Proclaiming May 2022 Bike Month in the City of University Heights. On roll call, all voted "aye."

B. Ordinance 2022-23 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund (100) to the Street Maintenance Fund (200), Payroll Stabilization Fund (299), Facilities Improvement Fund (411) and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)

Finance Director Dennis Kennedy stated that these transfers were all included in the permanent budget that Council approved in March. Mr. Kennedy explained each transfer. The street maintenance fund supplements revenue received from motor vehicle registration tax and gasoline tax. This will help fund the annual street program included in the budget. The Payroll Stabilization Fund is the set-aside for the extra pay period which happens every eleven years so as not to overburden the general fund. The Facilities Capital Improvement Fund will support any ongoing expenses for architectural, planning, etc. regarding the facilities plan for the City. These transfers are all from the General Fund.

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to approve Ordinance 2022-23 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund (100) to the Street Maintenance Fund (200), Payroll Stabilization Fund (299), Facilities Improvement Fund (411). Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

C. Ordinance 2022-24 Authorizing the Transfer of \$10,000 to the University Heights City Beautiful Corporation for Use in Funding the Performance of a Solid Waste Survey of City Residents and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)

Vice Mayor Weiss stated that Council does have a survey ready to go. She stated that the funds would come from a line item from Council's line item; that this does not include any type of taxes or assessments and this is to see whether residents would prefer backyard or curbside pickup.

Councilman Gould noted that this has been discussed for a while and that in consultation with the Law Director, the survey has not gone out. Mr. Gould stated that he is not willing to vote on either choice until the survey is sent out. He is anxious to move on and get the survey out.

Councilman Cooney asked what line item in the budget that the \$10,000 would come from. Mrs. Weiss stated that there is a miscellaneous expense item; that Council has two miscellaneous items in the Council budget, but that not all of the funds would be used. A discussion ensued regarding the line items. It was mentioned that there had been a paid survey that was not distributed at a cost of \$500 done by Dr. Sutton. The proposed expenditure for the survey includes all collating, online presentation would be included, and the data would also be returned to the City. The amount would probably be more around \$5-7 thousand, but the \$10,000 was to ensure not having to come back to Council for further approval should the cost exceed the lower amount. The majority of the (\$7,000) amount would be postage, Mr. Gould stated, further describing the process and logistics for same, including requirements of having a prepaid insignia from outside mailers to lower costs; envelope stamp requirements.

Councilman Cooney stated that he preferred a clean slate that was offered at no cost to the City. He concurred with comments made by the resident in the letter read by Vice Mayor Weiss this evening that both surveys should be supported.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECOND BY MRS. BLANKFELD to approve Ordinance 2022-24 Authorizing the Transfer of \$10,000 to the University Heights City Beautiful Corporation for Use in Funding the Performance of a Solid Waste Survey of City Residents and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)

Discussion

Mayor Brennan stated that no solid waste professional was involved in this process except for Mr. Pokorny, Service Director, whose input was disregarded. He noted that rather than utilize a free County survey, Council plans to spend City funds. A no-vote on this ordinance was recommended by the Mayor, adding that this is an opportunity to move forward to create a solution to resolve this issue.

Councilwoman Blankfeld stated this has been discussed extensively for almost year or more. She applauded the resident's suggestion that neither survey should be bashed but let the residents have their say.

In referring to the Mayor stating that already a negative comment has been made, Mrs. Sax asked about when notification was made regarding the evaluation team. Mayor Brennan stated that an email was sent to Council. Mrs. Sax acknowledged same but noted there was no discussion about same.

Mayor Brennan stated the Council-directed survey is a flawed political artifact from the campaign season, and it should be put to rest and we should move forward for the good of the City.

It was noted that there is no reference to cost in the City Beautiful Corporation survey; the selection and omission of some questions was discussed as well as costs for labor and outside services should curbside prevail in relationship to other duties that the Service Department handles,

Mayor Brennan noted that in public meetings held in September and October 2020, some residents indicated that they would be willing to pay an additional fee in order to keep backyard pickup; and he thinks this is a question worth asking.

In order to be consistent in evaluating costs, Mayor Brennan asked if there is a proposal for the costs related to the survey. Councilman Gould stated that information was provided as part of the packet from the time the \$500 was approved; the scope of the project was attached and reviewed. The processes that has taken place over the past year regarding this citing various scenarios, what-ifs and public records on this subject have been discussed in detail over the past year. In response to Mayor Brennan's question, Councilman Gould stated that he did have proposal, emails from the communication director, and that information is on the website.

In response to Mayor Brennan's question about whether or not a current proposal/quote from Dr. Sutton is on hand with the committed price, Mr. Gould stated that he did. The Mayor Brennan stated that he is looking forward to seeing that.

Roll call on suspension of rules, all voted "aye," except Mr. King who voted "nay." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye" except Mr. Cooney and Mr. King who voted "nay."

D. Ordinance 2022-25 Establishing a Charter Review Commission; Setting Qualifications for Members of Such Commission; and Setting Forth the Authority and Duties of Such Commission and Declaring an Emergency (on first reading)

Vice Mayor Weiss stated this was one of the issues that came up in the Council retreat and that a Charter Review had not been done for 12+ years. Other cities were researched and this ordinance is set up similar to most Northeast Ohio cities. This is a time-consuming yet unbiased process.

Mrs. Weiss stated that she is proud that council and administration are willing to undertake this review.

Each Council member and the Mayor appoints one resident to be on the committee and that committee chooses three; minimum of two meetings every month. They will select their head of the committee.

Law Director McConville commented that the date of June 8 in the ordinance should be changed because of time constraints. The process flows from the initial meeting where a chair and co-chair are selected, they are required by the ordinance to meet twice a month and are to report to Council within 120 days the

progress. It is suggested that any recommended changes/amendments/revisions to the Charter would be on the ballot sometime in 2023.

Mayor Brennan agreed that a charter review is a very important process, will take a lot of work, and that he is disappointed that there has been no discussion between the council and the administration over particulars. He pointed out this ordinance is similar to one done in 2008 for a charter review; nearly all of the amendments failed, He cautioned about setting up a charter review similar to the one that failed previously. This work is too important for it not to be successful, balanced – representative of the community, and Mayor suggested that this be referred to committee to make sure there are good amendments and that the process not be politicized as 2008.

Mrs. Weiss refuted the Mayor's comment that he was unaware of this ordinance, adding that there was a lengthy discussion with the Law Director. She explained that the Law Director researched many cities at her request to see how they were set up - structure, committee members, etc., and 75% of the cities are in line with our process. Mayor Brennan stated that he was aware of the possibility of a Charter Review Commission, but asked why he was only now seeing the legislation. Mayor Brennan stated that Mr. McConville asked Mrs. Weiss to call the Mayor to discuss, but she did not. Mrs. Weiss stated that she was concerned that the Mayor would not take her call.

Vice Mayor Weiss stated that this is a good ordinance. Mrs. Weiss stated that there is no issue here, and that no one is out to get the Mayor; that is not the case. City Council picks ten people and the Mayor picks one and the Mayor stated that was not balanced. He recalled the failed 2008 charter review process and stated that this is setup is to be doomed from the start.

Mr. Rach stated that while there was failure with the 2008 charter review, Mayor Brennan is not taking into account how the city has changed since then; how there has been an influx of "new" people into the city over the last ten years. A significant portion of the citizens in the city now are different. Furthermore, with reference to the number that council will have, the Mayor is assuming that Council members all think alike which is not true, as reflected in votes cast this evening

Mrs. Blankfeld commented that it is exhausting when every decision has to be disputed and reflected as being unfair.

Regarding the appointment and number of charter commission representatives and discussions that he may have had with Council and/or the administration regarding such matters, Mr. McConville is concerned that there is a perception that he is attempting to pit one side against another in private conversations, and that is certainly not the case. He pointed out that there are communities with a strong Mayor and other communities that actually elect Charter review members. Mr. McConville made it clear that he does not have an opinion of how the Charter review commission should be selected. Mayor Brennan assured Mr. McConville it was not believed that was the case.

Mrs. Weiss stated that she did have a conversation with the Law Director and asked him to speak to the Mayor on her behalf because she did not believe the Mayor would take her call and would not listen to anyone.

Mayor Brennan suggested that perhaps additional appointments could be done in conjunction with Council and both review resumes.

Mrs. Weiss noted that the Committee of the Whole will meet on May 17 and this can be reviewed then and that the ordinance will be on second reading at the first Council meeting in June. Mayor Brennan noted that he will attend the meeting albeit late because he is scheduled to be in Columbus that day, but suggested also that they can talk before then.

Law Director McConville suggested that a timeline should be established keeping the November (2023) election in mind. He stated that while this process could be delayed because the June date in the ordinance does not provide enough time, it should not be much later than June because of the time-consuming restraints to complete the work.

Mayor Brennan suggested that additional numbers can be selected with Council together to create more balance. Council could make recommendations and the Mayor approve or the process could be reversed.

Mayor Brennan reiterated that he believes this process is important and should happen and asked that it be a collaborative effort.

Mr. Gould commented that he hoped upcoming conversations will be on the public record. Mr. Gould discussed misconceptions due to lack of clear and direct communication. It was good to hear that the Mayor say that he and Council unanimously supported the recent ballot Issue 20, and hoped that such unity could continue.

With reference to Mayor Brennan's comment that he wanted to be aware of any legal issue to be considered before meeting and an innuendo that he was breaking the law, Councilman Gould assured him that there were never such statements or suggestion; this was factually inaccurate

Ordinance 2022-25 was referred to committee.

E. Motion to Authorize the Posting of the Position of Housing and Community Development Administrative Assistant (Housing Admin) Employee

Mr. Geoff Englebrecht, Director of Housing and Community Development. was present and explained that the current administrative assistant will be leaving the position on May 20, 2022.

Mrs. Blankfeld suggested that this be sent to committee for further discussion. Mayor Brennan pointed out that in order to provide continuity in the department, particularly now that the busiest season is fast t approaching, action should be taken tonight on this matter.

There was discussion regarding the cost of this position, the requirements of SafeBuilt and the City's desire to restore this slot as a city employee. It was pointed out that SafeBuilt was willing to secure a replacement under their existing contract, but Mr. Englebrecht prefers finding the replacement independently and return the post back to the city. Mayor Brennan explained that at the time this position was previously vacant, the city seized the opportunity to include it in the SafeBuilt contract due to staffing concerns but it was not intended to be permanent. It was noted that for this position the city pays \$46.50 per hour; Finance Director Kennedy did an informal review and noted that the monthly charge is about \$8,000 or about \$96,000 yearly for the position of Administrative Assistant. The possibility of some savings with the position being returned to the City was discussed. Mr. Englebrecht answered questions regarding the requirements/skills he was seeking for this position.

Mr. Gould asked that Mr. Kennedy review the expenses in a more formal way based on the length of the contract (since March 2021). The dollar amount in the ordinance is based on a prorated amount for the balance of the year provided by Mr. Englebrecht in anticipation of the vacancy.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to post the position of Housing and Community Development Administrative Assistant at an amount of total compensation and Remuneration that does not exceed the amount expended annually through SafeBuilt. On roll call, all voted "aye."

F. Ordinance 2022-28 Amending Ordinance 2022-15 and Ordinance 2022-19 Authorizing Permanent Appropriations Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2022 and Ending December 31, 2022, and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)

Mr. Kennedy stated that the General Fund is budgeted by department; the contract expenses are charged to the Building Department so the building department's appropriation would have to be reduced and those funds moved to the Housing Department's salary line.

Mr. Kennedy explained that this amendment does not create a net increase to either the General Fund or total appropriations, but does have to be filed with the Budget Commission. This action funds the position in the Housing and Community Development Department described above.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. COONEY, for the passage of Ordinance 2022-28 Amending Ordinance 2022-15 and Ordinance 2022-19 Authorizing Permanent Appropriations Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2022 and Ending December 31, 2022, and Declaring an Emergency. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”

G. Motion to Accept Lease Extension for City Hall Annex Offices, 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite #105, with a monthly rental cost of \$1,575.00 beginning June 1, 2022 and expiring on May 31, 2023

Mayor Brennan read a letter he wrote regarding this matter (attached hereto). He noted that cost for electricity is included in the rent, and that Law Director McConville has reviewed the lease.

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to approve Accepting the Lease Extension for City Hall Annex Offices, 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite #105, with a monthly rental cost of \$1,575.00 beginning June 1, 2022 and expiring on May 31, 2023. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

H. Motion Authorizing Purchase of WatchGuard Body Worn Cameras in the amount of \$39,721.

Police Chief Rogers explained that the proposal presented is to replace the system used since 2016, which is now obsolete. The equipment is no longer made or supported. The recommendation is to migrate to a body-worn system by WatchGuard under state contract pricing which would provide 16 camera units, including all hardware and data storage, attachments and replacement batteries in the amount of \$39,721

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD Authorizing the Purchase of WatchGuard Body Worn Cameras in the amount of \$39,721. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

I. Motion Authorizing the Purchase of two (2) new 2022 Ford Utilities Explorers through Statewide Ford and Additional Necessary Equipment for a total amount not to exceed \$55,057.84 per vehicle and \$132,115.68 for both vehicles

Chief Rogers stated that there may be a need for an amendment for the total cost as he was informed today of a \$1,924.00 price increase. Chief Rogers suggested that since prices constantly increase, he recommended expending the total allotted budgeted amount of \$135,390.00 appropriated in the capital fund for these two vehicles.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX Authorizing the Purchase of two (2) new 2022 Ford Utilities Explorers through Statewide Ford and Additional Necessary Equipment for a total amount not to exceed the total amount of \$135,390.00 for both vehicles. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

J. Authorization for Signal Service for the Repair of the Warrensville Center Road Mid-Block Crossing Signals not to exceed the amount of \$15, 561

Chief Rogers stated that this is a result of a traffic accident last October and that an insurance check has been received from GEICO for this reimbursement so that Signal Service can make the repairs.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. KING Authorizing Signal Service to Repair the Warrensville Center Road Mid-Block Crossing Signals not to exceed the amount of \$15, 561. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

K. Motion to Award 3-year Pavement Marking Project to JD Striping & Services Inc. in the amount of \$77,067.80 for 2022

It was noted that the payment is to be for one-year only of the contract. Mr. Gould noted that there is not an immediate need for the repaving of certain parking lots, but if needed later, Administration could come back to Council to request additional funds.

MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to Award 3-year Pavement Marking Project to JD Striping & Services Inc. and to fund contract for one year for the amount of \$49,076.80 for 2022. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

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

There was no cause for an Executive Session.

Director’s Reports

Finance Department – Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy stated that work on the audit is continuing. He is putting together a schedule of revenue and expense through the end of April for the Strategic Plan meeting later this week. The numbers will be draft numbers. Mr. Kennedy stated that he would also follow up on the SafeBuilt matters discussed and will get to everyone.

Law Department – Mr. McConville

Mr. McConville thanked the Safety Committee for comments on the solicitors and peddler’s ordinance and stated those ordinances will be provided prior to the next committee meeting in time to be included on the first Council meeting agenda in June. Regarding the Mayor’s comments about “ Notices of Intent to Acquire” being issued to owners of Coral retail and garage parcel at University Square, this will create a lot of activity for the Law Department. Pleadings will be drafted for those law suits and negotiations with potential developers will take place. It is anticipated that after the 30-day notice period, suits will be filed. It is hoped that communication from previously reluctant parties will commence. Mr. McConville stated that at the next meeting, he hoped to update on pending legislation in Executive Session.

Public Safety – Fire Department

Chief Perko reported that the hydrant flushing is being competed and signs will be taken down once the remaining hydrants will be flushed. The department’s administrative assistant completed the 2021 annual report, and Chief Perko will email the document to all. Chief Perko echoed Mr. Englebrecht’s comments regarding the importance of administrative assistants.

Service Department – Mr. Pokorny

Loose leaf collection was completed April 30, including loose brush. Mr. Pokorny reported that from this point residents will be required to bag lawn refuse and to cut and tie brushes to 4’ lengths, no more than 50 pounds

Housing and Community Development – Geoff Englebrecht

Mr. Englebrecht stated that grass cutting by the City’s contractor will begin this week. so there will be yellow tags at houses that need cutting.

City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni

Mr. Ciuni reported that construction has started today on the Cedar Road sewer repairs between Thayne and Brockway; the zone is set up in the middle of the road. This is a 21-day project and should be completed by Memorial Day. There are four (4) sewer repairs to do in that area. The Traymore Road water line project pipe is delivered and is on-site. The above-ground bypass piping install will begin tomorrow and is a 90-day contract. The big project is the ODOT Cedar Road job. Currently, the work is being done between Miramar and Green Road now; they are working on the South Euclid side. Traffic is being maintained on the University Heights side – one lane in each direction; that should last until about July 4; then they will switch over to the west side of the City from Taylor Road to Fenwick with the same process. The orange barrels are out. Mr. Ciuni reported that he, Mayor Brennan and Service Director Mr. Jeffrey Pokorny will meet next week with Dominion to discuss their projects coming up this year.

Communications and Civic Engagement – Mike Cook

The MOSAIC magazine should be in mailboxes by the end of next week.

There were no other director reports.

Standing Council Committees:

Building and Housing – Mrs. Blankfeld

Mrs. Blankfeld stated that the committee will meet on May 16 and June 20

Community Outreach – Mr. King

Mr. King reported that the Tech Advisory Commission met on May 13. He thanked Mrs. Sax for attending and providing feedback. Drafts have been sent out by the co-chairs, Mrs. Hudak and Mr. John Chang. He is hoping to have a final draft for next Wednesday to have for the Council agenda. He thanked all Council members who have made comments.

Economic Development – Mr. Rach

Following up Mayor Brennan's comments, re the zoning code, Mr. Rach stated he will work with Mrs. Thomas to get dates to formalize a committee meeting and that he is looking forward to this. Mayor Brennan stated that he is unsure when that will phase in, and Mrs. Drucker will advise.

Safety Committee – Mr. Gould

Mr. Gould stated that he would like to have the "No-Knock" organization give a presentation at the next Council meeting to discuss marketing plans and how this can be pushed out to the community.

Service and Utilities Committee – Mrs. Sax

Mrs. Sax stated that she is in the process of getting dates scheduled for next meeting.

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

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

Jeune Drayton, Assistant Clerk of Council