

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 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. Christopher Cooney  
Mr. Brian King

Absent: Mrs. Sheri Sax

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 MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MR. GOULD to excuse the absence of Mrs. Sax. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

Approval of Council Minutes:

Council Meeting February 22, 2022

**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MR. KING to approve the February 22, 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.”**

Additions and Removals from the Agenda; Referrals to Committee

Mayor Brennan respectfully ask for a motion to remove items A, B and C from the agenda when they were placed on the agenda it was done under the erroneous assumption that these appointments are subject to council confirmation and turns out per the charter they are not. So, there is no reason to ask council to agree or disagree with these particular appointments.

**MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. COONEY to remove agenda items “a, b, and c” from the agenda per Mayor Brennan’s request. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

Mrs. Weiss asked and suggested that the City provides Mr. Siemborski and Mr. Fine proclamations in honor of their service of serving the city as Members of the Planning Commission for many years.

Mayor Brennan replied that he had privately expressed his thanks, but presenting them with a proclamation or other showings for their service would not be inappropriate.

Mrs. Weiss replied that she would appreciate it if that could possibly be done at the next Council Meeting.

### **Comments from Audience**

Michael Caito, 2603 Fenwick Road read the following into the record. I'm a third generation University Heights resident (my grandparents and father's side of the family were members of the Gesu parish). I bought my first home on Channing back in 1994 and later moved to Fenwick in 2003.

My looks may fool you, but I have served on the Architecture Review Board for 20 years. It's a distinct honor to serve as the chairperson of the board and actively engage in numerous steering committees with the city throughout the years. They include the new zoning code committee, the NOACA pedestrian and bicycle safety committee, the master plan, and the rebranding efforts. So, I'm no stranger around here. My work began on the ARB in 2002 when then-Mayor Beryl Rothschild saw one of my local projects get constructed. At the time, I was the architect for Flowerville, where we transformed an old gas station into a thriving flower shop. She came to me and asked if I would help start an architectural review board in UH. Beryl was very astute. She knew the region would soon be transformed with new construction projects and she sure was right. I helped form the board along with colleagues Bill Nadau and Maryanne Pellerano. This newly formed board is now Beryl's legacy.

Our early major projects were reviewing the design for JCU's Dolan Center, University Square, Whole Foods, and two renovations at Cedar Center. Since then, I have had the privilege to review every single construction project in the city, from new houses, townhomes, educational and religious institutions, new garages, windows and signage. It goes without saying that I know the design characteristics of all 32 miles of our neighborhoods.

Anyone who knows me, knows I'm not the bragging type, but I feel compelled to give a short bio. I started practicing architecture back in 1987 after graduating from Gilmour Academy, a private Catholic high school. I attended Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island and later transferred to University of Cincinnati. I interned at City Architecture and worked my way up over the years to Principal where I worked on complicated residential and mixed-use projects. Today, I'm the head architect for Payne & Payne Builders, where we design and build custom homes. We are quite busy; I'm averaging a design for a new custom home nearly every week. So it's safe to say I've designed over 500 custom homes since joining Payne & Payne in 2011. It's actually what's sets me apart on this board; I specialize in residential design.

One responsibility I have as the lead designer is that I have to present at other architectural review boards. On average, I'm presenting to at least 2 ARB's each month. That doesn't include presentations to BZA and Planning. So, I have a unique perspective on this board in that, I'm more often on the other side of the table. I present at some of the most challenging boards including Hunting Valley, Gates Mills, Moreland Hills, and even our neighboring cities of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and Beachwood. I take that valuable experience with me when I serve in UH. It's allowed me to ask the right questions, ensure quality design, build respect with the applicants, and make our process as smooth and friendly as possible.

In addition to chairing the UH ARB, I am also the chairperson on the Cleveland East-Regional / Opportunity Corridor ARB. I don't live in Cleveland but they sought me out. I am also the City Architect for the City of Painesville Historic District, and I sometimes consult with the Shaker Heights planning department. It goes to show I am more than qualified for this role.

One thing that I admire most about our ARB, is the dynamics of our membership. Mike, Richard and I make quite the team. In fact, it's the only thing that's been constant with regard to building in UH. Over the years, we have gone through 8 building commissioners. Our newest one started just last week. There is no more building department in our city, everyone quit under this administration. We now consult with third party SafeBuilt. We've even gone through a number of secretaries. However, the three of us here, each having legacy knowledge of the city, a deep understanding of the design character of our neighborhoods, and decades of architectural experience has been the only true constant. But now, the administration is proposing that we break up that continuity and appoint a new majority at a time when we have a brand new building commissioner who needs to be brought up to speed.

I don't have a problem with the two candidates. In fact, it was Mike and I who recommended them as alternates (not replacements) to this board. Last June, I asked the Mayor to consider bringing on an alternate to the ARB in case one of us is unable to attend a meeting-- after all, we need an odd number of people. An alternate is actually required by ordinance but the administration still isn't following that. He asked us to refer other candidates and we did. 9 months later, the Mayor decided to finally act on those suggestions but

not because there was a vacancy, or because he wanted an alternate, but because a member of my household stood up and spoke out to the Mayor last week. Apparently, the Mayor doesn't like it when people challenge him and this behavior is becoming a trend. Within the last two months, he's removed two Planning Commission members who publicly disagreed with him, attempted to remove a CIC citizen member and called for a councilman to step down. Today, he's now proposing a new ARB.

Look, I don't need this job. I enjoy it and I do it because I care about the city and want to ensure things are designed properly to preserve all of our property values. I am not up here to grovel for this role. That's not the behavior I engage in. I'm not even a political person. I just like to do architecture. I'm up here today to call for the preservation of the integrity of the ARB. For 20 years, this body has been independent and apolitical. The dismantling of this independent body is purely political influence and interference. It sets a dangerous precedent for the city. Do we really want to live in a community that if you disagree, you are disregarded? That boards will be made up of blind loyalty? No, we need a board that will remain independent and free thinking. One with discourse not submission.

Politicians come and go, but architecture has to stand the test of time.

Council, please consider the re-appointment of Michael Cucciarre, Richard Kiley, and myself and please consider the new appointment of an alternate member, which is much needed at this time. Thank you.

Richard Kieley, 2312 Miramar Blvd. was present and stated a couple of comments in relationship to the ARB. I have served for over a decade on the ARB. And I know earlier this week on the mayor notified me that due to code, city code, that not allowing alternate members on the ARB that was time to make a change and bring in the algorithms that were suggested a year ago, into the board, which I was perfectly fine with. But now I'm understanding that may not be in city code. And actually city code does allow for all team members, which would be I think, something a great advantage to this facility is being only three minutes or so in favor of alternatives in favor of, you know, changing of the guard, and they are being getting some fresh ideas. But I just think there needs to be a process laid out and just arbitrarily making the change. Thank you.

Mrs. Sax asked Mr. Caito and Mr. Kieley how were they notified and when? Both Mr. Caito and Mr. Kieley replied that they received a email from the Mayor the previous week.

Mr. Michael Cucciarre, a resident in University Heights for 14 years, and I've been an AARP member for 14. I served under three administrations Rothschild and failed and Mayor Brennan. During our tenure, as Mr. Kato had stated, we've been a consistent entity as a part of the building, building department. commissioners and staff have moved on for whatever reason. I feel we've always been fair, nonpartisan, consistent with our comments, while still keeping the city's best interest in mind and establish certain standards. We serve with a sense of civic pride and integrity. We each had our own architectural strengths that we fed off of each other and became relied upon. I was notified this past Friday with my cohorts. The other members, I should say, I was not I was not removed. I was nominated to be extended my tenure. I don't think any of us were aware that there was a term limit to our position. I mean, we enjoyed what we were doing. Like I said, I've served three administrations basically. And yeah, I second the fact that's, you know, we are in need of alternates. I recommended one of the candidates.

Ms. Winifred Weizer, 2177 Jackson came tonight because of the change in the ARB membership. I came tonight because of the issues, cost and information sharing raised at the Special Council meeting on Wednesday. I came tonight because of the turmoil my city seems to be in. That's a lot of turmoil, turmoil caused by the actions of the administration. I suppose mayor that you will say as you did at the meeting on Wednesday, that these are things best not talked about in public. Rather, it would be so much better to hold these from public view and Executive Session. Supreme Court Justice Brandeis So this quote about sunlight being the best disinfectant is a true one. discussions in executive session are sometimes necessary. However they can hide from the public what really is happening that prevents the public from speaking out about what is taken behind those closed doors. After the election, you represent all of us, not the 1584 that voted for you, but the 1698 the majority that voted against you, you will need to hear from all of us. We all both groups will agree with you on some things. We will also disagree on others. Some of the people here in support with Mr. Kato may also be your supporters. You Mayor have repeatedly reminded the console that you are the administrative head of the city. That is true. However, being the chief administrator means you have the responsibility to see that the city is running in an efficient and fiscally prudent manner. Administrative means you have to be able to manage to be a manager, good managers are not petty. The Wednesday meeting exposed a problem in our Administrative Code. There is nothing that would require

things classified as professional for going out to bid went over a certain dollar amount. The state of Ohio sets engineering fees at 50,000. As it turns out, that has led to potentially high engineering costs, we probably might not have had to pay if they had gone out for bid using Shaker Heights as an example. Sadly, this has been going on through multiple mayors and their administrations. However, when you set yourself up as the best administrator, and also as a budget expert that can ignore anyone who makes valid suggestions than one can ask, why haven't you fix this? If Councilman Rach had not had the courage to call the question on all of this, we probably would continue to pay these fees into the future. He did his job as an elected representative. Councilman Rach's actions exposed publicly and the issue that cost the city money a lot. A significant amount. Oh heck, how about enough to pave the road overtime? You can and it appears you did strike back at him by removing a member of his household Mr. Kato from the ERP and retaliation without any consideration of Mr. Kato, so for 20 years non political nonpolitical service to the city. The law director said to me after the meeting where I was reappointed to the CIC, that he felt the public back and forth between you and I was problematic, because residents would not want to serve if they were exposed to that happening. I personally agree with him. However, I know that anyone who wants to volunteer for a committee needs to know ahead of time what they might face. If they offer opinions that differ from yours, they will need to have the courage to speak their mind. I applaud Mr. Kato for his courage to speak his mind about ARB and the impact of what you are doing and I'm proud to stand with them. I think the one thing that all residents want is the management of this city to be done in an ethical and non political manner. If there are issues, we deserve to know what they are not kept those hidden from you to preserve political aspirations, or to protect significant political donors. I would hope you would consider your reconsider your actions in regards to the membership of ARB. It's a membership that is worked hard for all of our residents, without any political overtones.

Rebecca Slifer. I live on trade war road. And I am here with I think two possibly three things to say I have to see how the spirit moves me. So first, I am very proud that through the sustainability, quasi committee event things that we started earlier in January. I have had the privilege of meeting some of my neighbors and getting to know them better. Some of you getting to know better. And out of this. We've managed to create a partnership slash relationship with the Cleveland Heights green team. And they brought me in And Mandy good said and are my other neighbor Elizabeth Englehart together to be involved with their Earth Month initiative here in the heights. So on Sunday, April 24. In the afternoon, I believe from 12 to two, we are going to host a st sweet greens green event. Hopefully anybody who has an extra trash picker upper grabber thing, if you have one, and you would like to lend it to me, that'd be great. Because if not, I'll have to buy them, which I will do, because I think it's important to keep trash out of our sewer systems, which, you know, we all know that leads Joe. So I think it will be April 24, it's a Sunday, please mark your calendars, please come to our event, I will probably bring some cookies, and my pup tent and table and my fantastic husband who is so pious, which support all of my crazy ideas. So the first thing I wanted to mention, so my calendar. The second thing I wanted to bring up this evening is I wanted to say thank you to our Council. Thank you for asking her questions. And there's some fresh faces that have some diligence and are asking some of the things that I would like to know. I am not a politician. I don't have a background in all the local governments and how they work. And, you know, unfortunately, I'm just busy lady. So my thanks to those of you who are asking the hard questions, I have happy to pay my taxes doesn't bother me. I would rather not see though any tax money wasted. I don't want to see summer programming for children not paid for. I don't want to see how lunches not paid for. Because we were failing to be the stewards of the fiscal capabilities that have been managed by this city for a very long time. So before we moved here before this council was before us, there was a pretty good nest egg. We shouldn't just fritter it away because it's there. I don't mind spending money. I mean, I think I've offered to buy stuff to put up signs over the city. So I would just want to say thank you please keep asking the questions because that's the only way we get to understanding. I know it gets contentious. But from contentious interactions, we have a greater intimacy and a greater understanding. I know hard questions can ruffle some feathers and I can't even say ruffled feathers because I'm so excited about it. But I would ask that we keep Be mindful that everyone keeps an eye on what happens here, right? So show some leadership Don't be afraid. There's a lot of voices that are behind all of you because we rely on you to lead us through whatever comes next. Could be a new pandemic tomorrow. So on that note Keep up the good work I suppose.

Mayor Brennan read into the record email received from the public. There were four of them. I will start with an email from a resident pointing back in two sentences. I'm writing today regarding recent dismissal of Michael Kato from the Architectural Review Board. Please include this document tonight's meeting. Mr Kato, from my understanding was a founding member of the architecture Review Board, and it's served faithfully since its inception. Its efforts and dedication no doubt made significant contributions to University Heights and helped ensure its desirability among residents looking to relocate. Property values and return on investment are key factors and looking into which communities to live. homes and commercial structures must be maintained and renovated to the highest standards in order to support these lights effort to ensure residential business loans meet the standards and certainly contribute to the desirability of you A microfiber

designed implemented renovation of our screen fortune was more seasoned. His vision for this transformation was based on an overall plan for our backyard. His efforts helped earn our housing spot in this old house magazine as well as several university or school boards. This town was known in this project and so many others that have earned him I respect the architecture community or city his customers living throughout northeastern Ohio. I urge the powers that be who made this misguided decision to reinstate he and his colleagues? I'm sure you he continues to be desired, community and pertain by property values. Next is a letter from Sue party says Good evening. My name is Sue party I live at 2343 Charlie Rose. I'm a former council member and vice mayor of University Heights. I want to thank the mayor for reading my remarks in the record as I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting. I'd be moderating the public by recent actions in the city regarding the architecture review board and Planning Commission. It appears the mayor is performing a sweep the dedicated citizen experts who have served our city for years were their problems. Was there something wrong had one of these dedicated citizen servants made an egregious error the cost the city now had one of these residents of our city that accused of something happens. And the mayor says the administration tried to appoint a reappointment was anytime the last four years now. I am concerned for our dedicated citizens who have recently been removed from positions they serve in three years. However today I speak specifically on behalf of Michael Kato, the talented experienced architect who has given countless hours the city knows the housing stock your wells are known that a high reputation of English service other communities and agencies in fact he was a founding member of the architecture before I have been an observer cicada with my 12 years on council and nothing would be of the highest caliber carefully reviewing what is brought before the ARP about providing input before building institutional knowledge is significant especially during this time of extreme turnover and change in our building department. He is an asset to our city. I personally know about the new architects and their wishes to appoint and I wish them no ill will will however it will bring organization benefits from institutional knowledge and allow some time to train successors. parish council to consider reappointing Mr Kato on selecting one of the new appoint appointments as the much needed alternative for the Arabic. Finally most disturbing to me isn't there's lack of courtesy introspection of the citizen servants who have given their time and expertise over the years on the Caribbean Planning Commission. We welcome our residents and ask them to share their views with the city which only makes our city stronger. We should celebrate these residents not beat them up without warning. The mayor state of the city presented with the idea of putting people first with that he had put these longtime resident experts first as he considered how to move forward. Then we have a an email from Ruth grits vol. Two in the concerns I had the pleasure to work with Michael Cato for most of the 30 years that I was with the University Heights billing department is dedication expertise has gained him the admiration of many including myself. Whenever he reviews from a simple replacement garage to a complicated new structure, his knowledge, professionalism and fairness has always been evident. Scalability should also be about it. As I can't recall Michael ever being absent from a meeting. He is not surprisingly extremely well respected among his peers. The university has Architectural Review Board is very fortunate to have makedo as a long standing member and as serving as chair. Richard Kiley has also been a very valuable presence in the air meetings, he brings a lot to the table and the dynamics and interactions between these two professional gentlemen would be extremely difficult to replicate. University Heights should be very proud of their service and other genuine interests and concerns of veterans their community

Lastly, Mayor Brennan read the following email signed by addressed to University and city council. This is signed by numerous folks, I'll bring them off when I get to them. I would like to thank you for your efforts to mix recycling University Heights and make the city more sustainable place for all however more work needs to be done. This city has the ability to set its sights on monumental objectives. We cannot allow ourselves to become constrained by the issue of recycling. Waste utilize your role as a public official to work together with other members of the council and the mayor and the people you represent. Recycling is too important of an issue for the future of this planet and everyone who inhabits it in the years to come to waste time debating week after week about new proposals, best recycling practices, the city can undeniably focus its efforts on bolder objectives. Solar energy is one that comes to mind. I do not doubt that you sincerely care about this issue to please put that care and attention in making this Council's top priority and not move on until a solution is found. John Carroll University is the city's University Heights namesake. Please honor that commitment to the University through the city and listen to students as we say that issue is urgent. We care and we will be vocal until we see a change sign.

**Reports and Communications from the Mayor, and the taking of action thereon;****Mayor's Report**

Mayor's Report 4-04-2022

I will begin by the Architectural Review Board. I'm delighted to appoint three people submit to council confirmation this evening. Willie Quinn has a master's in architecture from Penn State University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and a Bachelor in environmental design from Texas a&m University. While Philadelphia Miss Wynn was a designer projects including the west tower and East Market, mixed use project independence collection, stored renovation and the society Hilton Marriott projects. She was the architect she was architect of PFC you a little bit OHS on retail project than spring garden mixed use project. Those were in Philadelphia and in State College, Pennsylvania, the Penn State Veterans Affairs Center since coming to Northeastern Ohio University right since wind has been architect on valor, Baker's multifamily projects and Brecksville and 3663 parties, mixed use projects and beech wood, among others. Tell me justice has a master's in architecture and urban design from Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Cleveland urban design and collaborative. He has been with Onyx creative and Hirshman associates since 2013. As a design architect, he's been an adjunct professor at Cal. As for community involvement, in addition to attending jury reviews was to provide professional design critique for students of architecture, university CABG. And having served on the city of Cleveland design review, Mr. Justice was at we created liaison for the games known and held in Cleveland 2014. Mr. Coudray is well known that the city hadn't been a registered architect for 33 years, having served on the ARB for the last 14 years and I've offered him an appointment. These appointments reflect my continuing effort to bring the city boards and commissions to reflect the diverse population of the city to provide new opportunities to people who are highly qualified or willing to serve while preserving a degree of institutional knowledge. These are never meant to be lifetime appointments. As a city we are interested in new voices and new perspectives. These appointments represent my continuing commitment to that. While the agenda indicates these are four year terms under the ordinance, the terms are actually for three years that are being staggered. There have been no new or reappointments therapies since well before I took office in 2018. After concept National Law director it's my intention to reintroduce the originally intended staggered terms by appointing each of these three appointees tonight for a partial one partial to or complete three year term, so that a new ARB appointment can be made each year as originally intended. And we will address that in the agenda. Last week, the council committee of the whole formed with my blessing a facilities and infrastructure committee committee to be filled, filled with citizen members. Were looking for people with an interest in seeing through our new municipal facilities. They had a needs assessment report and had design phases to come. It will be a working committee, one with a fair number of meetings over the next few months. You can have practically any background though backgrounds in architecture, engineering, commercial real estate, recreation, urban planning, safety services, Senior Services, and green energy or all of them. I'm particularly interested in hearing from candidates from minority and underrepresented and underserved groups. This is an opportunity to shape the future of the city, first with municipal facilities and then beyond to serve as an advisory on various infrastructure projects and priorities. Similar to tech advisory and finance advisory, we envision that at some point we may consider formalizing this committee by Oregon's email us at info University grants.com subject line, Joint Task Force on facilities and infrastructure. It isn't actually a task force but that is how advertising prior to the formation so please use that as a subject line. Tell us anything you'd like about your interest in serving and what perspective during view in all applications ability and flow I will be forwarding on to my scenario for joining consideration. Cedar Road project update. Since the last regular meeting, we had a special meeting and the Cedar Road project is back on Cedar Road will be resurfaced from South Taylor road Fenwick road, and from Miramar Boulevard and South Green Road. The \$2.4 million project will be funded by no accurate Cuyahoga County and cities of South Euclid The University. outside funding at this time exceeds 1.8 million. additional federal money may be obtained later this man projects of this magnitude did not occur in our city without leveraging outside resources at the times when they are available. In addition to resurfacing and Representative administration's ongoing commitment to pedestrian and public transportation infrastructure, as well as its commitment to the northwestern portion of the city, so notable features of this project include that cedar and Thane a new beacon crosswalk and Thane road and secret will improve access to the RTA stops on Cedar but the closest sidewalks to the Thane bus stop the Cranston and South Taylor. bus riders are currently forced to walk a half mile out of their way across cedar across or if they resort to jaywalking. The new crosswalk will be safer for bus riders and pedestrians. Sooner in Washington, corners will be extended to Washington Boulevard and cedar make new crosswalk shorter and safer for pedestrians. The new standard concrete crosswalks will be easier to see. In addition the existing crosswalk in Washington just south of cedar will be relocated for safety and accessibility reasons. Cedar in South Belmar. New stamped concrete crosswalks will be installed across cedar at the south Delaware Boulevard intersection. The two long crosswalks across South Belmar will be sacred problems and offer increased protection to pedestrians thanks to the extension of the boulevard meeting. Currently pedestrians cross in front of the median and with this enhancement the crosswalk enters the medium at the midpoint. These crosswalks will also feature stamp grip for safety and

aesthetic considerations. This project has been in the works since at least 2019. There's more I'd like to see next time we release theater to improve the Western cedar corridor and demonstrate our continuing commitment to this neighborhood and Gateway. These enhancements that promote both safety and aesthetics in an underserved section of our community are a good first step there are many people think made possible saving the Cedar River Project and keeping it intact including but not limited to preschool children Executive Director for color guidance navigate the future the project keep Benjamin South Euclid Director of Community Services who was in constant contact and lobbying all over for this project. University as law director with Khan University and city engineer Joon Chang, who spent many hours working on this exclusively or nearly exclusively from the regular meeting through the special meeting to save this project. I think go to our district 12 Deputy Director Jonathan Currie, together with ODOT transportation engineer Laurie Scaramucci for working with us and sticking with us while we sorted this out. I also think our county council person Cheryl Stevens, who pledged and dedicated the \$129,420 needed to bridge the gap from county art This is in addition to funds already applied for intended for university. I think Vice Mayor Michele Weiss, for making the original motion to approve the funding for this project. And after that initial motion bill passed, we're continuing to work out.

With her I think council members Brian Kane and Chris Cooney to support this project on initial motion and continuing through to the special meeting. And we're engaged throughout the process. councilmembers Justin Gould and Barbara Blanco, who upon reconsideration supported the project, and counselors and especially, who actively found reasons to support the project leading up to that motion for reconsideration. And thank you to Councilmember Shari Sachs, who is the was excused from the initial meeting and this the Initial vote, to make yourself available to remote in and support the project at the special. Thank there's nothing we cannot accomplish for the benefit of the city of University Heights. Why don't we just work together. Speaking of working together, this Wednesday is the joint meeting of the city governments of University Heights and Cleveland Heights, the board's of heights libraries and the Cleveland Heights University High School District. The meeting will be at 6:30pm on Wednesday, April 6 2022. At the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center at one Monticello Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. Each government and board will take approximately 15 minutes to update the others on projects each is working on that will be a mutual interest. Group Discussion moderated by a school board president while the Louis ablaze the four entities may collaborate. This is the first of three meetings scheduled this year. The agenda has been finalized for distribution tomorrow. We continue to get good news from the US Census with the Bureau releasing demographic data for the entire state of Ohio. We learned from census data that University Heights has risen from 53rd to 42nd in the state of median income with the 25.2% raise from 2016 to 2022, an average rather to a median income of 105,912. We learned from census data that our median home value is up 10.4% \$271,300, striking the balance between respectable appreciation and affordability. And based on a median age of 29.8 years University Heights is the youngest city of dialogue account and the six youngest in the state. While the student population John Durham University has a lot to do with that the data taken together proves that what we all know that University Heights is a great city for young families. Families can move here knowing that they can get a great education enjoy wonderful facilities such as the wall and live in a well maintained and safe community. Business owners and developers also know this is a vibrant, growing and diverse community and that we're open for business. My sincere condolences to the family of former mayor of Lakewood Madeline Kane, who passed away this afternoon at age 72 after a long illness. Mayor Kane was the first woman to serve as Mayor of Lakewood, serving from 1996 to 2003 when she was my mayor when I lived in Lakewood, though I knew her only from a distance she was inspirational. She was the first mayor that I've watched him work within the community in which I live. I have thought of her example from time to time as I serve this community near me before class. And he rescued.

Thank you, this concludes my report.

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

Mrs. Weiss reported that a called Special Council meeting to try and encourage the passage of the Cedar Road project and it thankfully passed. Mrs. Weiss thanked all of the council members adding that they are a team and collaboration is necessary in order not to compromise the ability to get things done. The first Joint Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Council of the Whole. Mrs. Weiss reiterated the Mayor request for interested resident to email the city [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com) so that those appointments can be made soon.

Mrs. Weiss gave the floor to Mr. Gould for comments.

Mr. Gould stated that he participated in a conversation with City Engineer Mr. Ciuni about the Cedar Road project. There were matters raised during that conversation which were appropriate for public light and that need further explanation. Mr. Gould said he personally needed additional understanding on these matters and look forward to the opportunity to discuss them more in committee. He, however wanted it to be clear that he did not make any allegations of illegality regarding that project and that he took such allegations

extremely seriously. Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. Gould said he read and otherwise understood that there may be some misunderstanding about his position, and intent so he was grateful for the opportunity to clarify both of those things now. Now, as a final point in reflection of that meeting, Mr. Gould said that he did not approve of the tone of the conversation in which I participated. For that he had personally apologized to Mr. Ciuni. Mr. Gould said that while he would not further discuss the contents of their private discussion, but because the insult was public, Mr. Gould felt it was appropriate to publicly acknowledge and repeat his apology to Mr. Ciuni. Mr. Gould thanked everyone for the opportunity to address and clarify those items.

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

Agenda items E, F, and G were moved to the beginning of the agenda items to be agenda items A, B, and C.

**A. Motion to Confirm the Appointment of Tommy Chesnes to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Four (4) Years**

Mayor Brennan noted that the agenda item read for a period of four years, four years and then there would be discussion on how the years would be stagger between the members.

Mr. McConville replied that made sense.

Mayor Brennan stated that it would be his intention to ask that Mr. Chesnes be appointed for at a period of full term of three years when the terms get stagger. Mayor Brennan asked if there was a motion.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel appointment and legal matters. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

Executive session was entered into at 7:49pm.

**MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to return to regular session. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

Mr. McConville thanked everyone in the audience for waiting during the course of the executive session. Mr. McConville reported that during the executive session Council and the Mayor had a collaborative discussion that he felt resulted in what would be a good solution for the community and for the ARB. Mr. McConville said that he was asked to draft an ordinance that will expand the membership of the ARB from three to five. The expanded ARB will have staggered terms with two members being appointed to a 3- year term, two members appointed to a 2-year term and one member appointed to a 1-year term. And as those vacancies occur, the appointment process will remain as it currently does with Mayoral appointment subject to Council confirmation.

Mr. Rach clarified that the ARB members either be reappointed or a new candidate plan for three years at that point.

Mr. McConville said that Mr. Rach was correct and added that each subsequent appointment would be for a 3-year period. It is anticipated that each of the folks who was present at this evening would be appointed to one of those positions. That would allow that both the institutional knowledge on the one hand, which has been so very valuable and allow for the injection of new ideas and fresh faces onto the board at the same time.

Mayor Brennan added that there would be a couple of bits of housekeeping where there would need to be a call for a special meeting to make the recommended changes to the ordinance that organizes the ARB. The Mayor noted that there was an ARB meeting coming up and that it would have to be postponed for lack of a quorum. But a call meeting of the ARB could occur once everything else has been completed in order to hold a special council meeting in order to pick up the work of the Architectural Review Board and then get back on with the regular schedule. Mayor Brennan thanked the three people who have served together with the two new applicants and stated that he looked forward to working with each of them once the Board is restructured.

**MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to table agenda items A, B and C. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

Agenda item A was tabled.



**B. Motion to Confirm the Appointment of Lyly Huyen to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Four (4) Years**

Agenda item B was tabled.

**C. Motion to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Michael Cucciarre to the University Heights Architectural Review Board for a Term of Four (4) Years**

Agenda item C was tabled.

**D. Presentation of John Carroll University Student Government Resolution (RES)02-S22 “To urge the University Heights City Council to foster a more sustainable city for all by adopting Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan’s budget proposal which lays out a comprehensive plan for improving recycling” by JCU Student Government President Grace Kilfoyle and Senator Class of 2024 Max Malley and others.**

Present to present their Resolution was John Carroll Student Government President, Grace Kilfoyle; Student Government Vice President Jacob Lossky; Sophomore Senator Max Malley and Freshman Senator Natalie Dunlap.

Ms. Kilfoyle read the JCU Student Government Resolution 02-S22 into the record. Ms. Kilfoyle said that the resolution was introduced and unanimously passed by the Senate on March 22 2022, and was signed into effect by herself and Vice President Jacob Kozlowski. Ms. Kilfoyle introduced Senator Max Malley to share a few remarks on the issue.

Mr. Malley said that in conversations with the students of John Carroll University, it was evident that people care, people care about recycling, they want University Heights to be a more sustainable city, whatever form that takes. The people don't necessarily care whose plan it is or what exactly it does, but all that they know is that we want set a better future for ourselves, for our children, and for anyone else. Everyone has great intentions and wants this issue to come to a pass because when recycling gets solved everyone can be proud of themselves and can say that there is a higher rate of recycling, maybe even 25%. Even though the recycling outputs are different for John Carroll and for the city, the students still care about the city that they live in and perhaps part of its most passionate citizens. The students are here for four years, and that spirit grows exponentially within us as the days go on.

Mrs. Sax introduced herself as Chair of the Service and Utilities Committee, which takes care of rubbish collection, including solid trash and recycling. Mrs. Sax stated that it meant a lot to her to read and to hear from the John Carroll University Student Government about their advocacy for a more sustainable community. Mrs. Sax added that she hoped that not only would they be leaders, but will also be leaders in the community. Mrs. Sax invited everyone to the next committee meeting on May 3 at 7pm that way. Through many conversations and many interactions with various people organizations in Cuyahoga County that actually directly impact the city’s solid trash collection and recycling. Mrs. Sax said that she had been able to get some insights also with some neighboring cities, who have some best practices in order. In regards to the resolution that JCU’s Student Government presented it indicated a comprehensive plan. Noting that Mr. Malley mentioned that a couple of times as far as the purchase of the large 69 gallon or 64 gallon containers for recycling Mrs. Sax asked Mr. Malley what comprehensive plan was he referring to?

Mr. Malley replied that the comprehensive plan that they were specifically referring to was the 2022 budget proposal laid out by Mayor Brennan. The members of the Student Government Senate deem that that was sufficient and necessary.

Mrs. Sax commented that it cost \$250,000 for those recycling bins. But as far as a plan and implementing it, knowing the number of residents who currently participate in recycling. Mrs. Sax said that she was not aware of any of those metrics or any of the data to support that and that she has also been trying to work with the recommendations from the solid waste study. There is a way to double the city’s recycling rate like Pepper Pike and Shaker Heights who uses backyard collection; one of them does loose collection. So there is a way to do it loose in our backyards, which is why Mrs. Sax would like JCU Student Government and other to come to the next Service and Utilities Committee meeting in May so that everyone can learn more about recycling together. There were actually recommendations from the survey that suggestion that formal recommendations be made on how to engage John Carroll University students with the City

University Heights for the purpose of improving reducing the contamination of recycling goods. University Heights could really collaborate together with John Carroll students to achieve the goals of Student Government Resolution and the goals that City Council has, which are one in the same. University Heights, has one of the highest property taxes in the state of Ohio. The residents of the city who have written emails to council and the mayor and have trusted the council with their tax dollars to spend those dollars wisely. So, when council is asked to spend a \$250,000 plus council has to look at the plan, look at the metrics and look at the what it is based upon. Once that is provided, and once there is actually a solid plan, council would love to go forward with something that is reasonable.

Ms. Kilfoyle noted that JCU as members of a Jesuit Catholic University have an obligation to care for their common home and that is a big principle in any Jesuit education. Where they are taught to know and engaged with their community. John Carroll has also signed on to the Laudato Si initiative of Pope Francis's which calls for seven years of action on campus to improve the sustainability of their campus.

Noting his appreciation of Ms. Kilfoyle's ending comments where she said that they did not care who implements sustainability occur because they just want to see improvements. Mr. Gould said that was not what the resolution said. Mr. Gould asked Miss Kilfoyle if she could explain a little bit more about the process precedent, what restraints had the University has placed or what guidance the University provides the Government body's statements to influence public opinion, versus, for instance, political action?

Ms. Kilfoyle responded that in their eyes, this may be viewed as a political issue by some but to them, as students, they did not see it that way. Ms. Kilfoyle said that it was in their bylaws as a body called student government, but they were by no means a government necessarily. And that they preferred their former name of Student Union, because that was how they viewed themselves. Ms. Kilfoyle added that she would not necessarily say that this was any sort of political action. It was purely public opinion, and a statement on behalf of the student body and their stance on the issue.

Mr. Gould replied that that was fantastic. Because that did not come across in the resolution. And when he received that, as a council person, he felt that although he I appreciated the sentiment, he felt as though as a body they were selecting specific political action and demanding that from this body. Noting that the student government body met with the Mayor and that there were several statements in the resolution that said according to the mayor's report; Mr. Gould asked if they had invited the Vice Mayor or any other members of council to present to you regarding the different options that have been presented over the years?

As author of the resolution, Mr. Malley replied that it may look like they were selecting a specific side, but he thought that this just showed how passionate they are about this issue. Mr. Malley added that they saw this as the best option going forward, and if they were presented with other future best options, they would be more than happy to listen to anything that comes down the pipeline. Lastly, Mr. Malley said that they consider themselves on one side, and that was the side of the students of John Carroll University. Their interests are our interest. Regarding Mr. Gould question of the Vice Mayor and City Council being invited to speak to the student government, they would love to hear from anyone now in the future, to hear any sides of this issue. Mr. King said that he was invited.

Additional conversation was had in relations to the John Carroll Student Government Resolution.

Mrs. Blankfeld thank you everyone for their passion and for their dedication as well as their hunger to learn more about government. How it affects our communities and how decisions affect everyone, including our student population, which are good neighbors of ours. Council has to balance every decision with the financial end of it and be able to do things in a way that makes sense.

**E. Presentation by Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Executive Director Solid Waste District  
The day in the life of a recyclable item in University Heights. Explaining what is recyclable, how recyclables are collected in the community and how they are processed at the MRF**

Mrs. Biggins-Ramer and Mrs. Jessica Thinos, Assistant Director for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District were both present and presented a power point presentation regarding the history of recycling in general, best practices, not only within Cuyahoga County, but within the industry in general and the University Heights current system of recycling. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer showed a video of a Material Recovery Facility in action so people could have some idea of once recyclables get to a Material Recovery Facility what is done with them. Another video was from the City of Phoenix Material Recovery Facility.

Mrs. Biggins-Ramer spoke about the analysis that GT environmental did in 2009. The report was updated in 2019 and the findings were presented to the city in the spring, right after COVID hit in 2020. In that

document they provided eleven operational recommendations and full economic analysis for possibly exercising the options that they placed in that document. The District is a free consultant that tries to guide communities to reduce as much as they can on landfill reliance and to implement best available technologies. The free consulting services are provided through our staff who mostly has over 20 years of experience in the industry. Toolkits are also available at the district for anyone in the communities. The toolkit helps explain how to recycle right. The toolkit has graphics and also provides a basically a template as to how to create a flyer. The city can utilize all the appropriate documents off our website to use in printed publications on city's website or social media applications. Step two, which was also listed on the GT proposal was to conduct a survey to see the temperature of acceptance of changing your programming here in the city. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer stated that the district would like to propose putting together a survey. Lastly, the District is here to help however, they can. And if the city is interested in having them oversee and underwrite a survey, please let them know and they would be more than glad to move ahead on any request.

Mrs. Sax commented that her conversation with Ben Johnson convinced her that loose recycling was the way to go and that she brought it up at the last committee meeting. Everyone agrees that it should be considered. Mrs. Sax added that Mrs. Biggins-Ramer was spot on. We need to hear from our residents. We need to hear what they prefer in terms of continuing backyard collection. Noting she was thrilled that the mayor was inclined to consider working with the district Mrs. Sax asked who wrote their surveys to ensure that they were valid and reliable?

Mrs. Biggins-Ramer replied that they would have to put the project out for quotes, as it would be a service. The quotes would come from consultants to assist us with that. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer added that they do a lot of survey work themselves. For example, we have to statutorily survey all of our residential, commercial and industrial sector clients annually and report to the EPA. So, they do have some actual surveying expertise on staff but would have to put together a scope and vote that to see what responses they would get, and then the pricing associated for them. In regards to the purchase of the recycling bins and collection carts, Mrs. Biggins-Ramer said that there was a reimbursement grants from the Ohio EPA, but the city would have to expend the money up front and then get reimbursed after the fact.

Mr. Cooney thanked Mrs. Biggins-Ramer for her presentation and showing the generations recycling tendencies. On another note, there was a gentleman who addressed Council a couple of months ago and talked about how he took a burlap bag to the curb, filled with metals and everything during World War II. The gentleman spoke very passionately for the need for us to improve our current system. Mr. Cooney said he had learned so much from the website and all the information that they provide. It talks about recycling carts and cities to implement them in hopes to see about 450 pounds of recycling per household, that the convenience of the car the capacity of actually having a physical vessel to put the man in rather than having to seek out yields superior results for them 50 pounds per household per year. Mr. Cooney said he ran the numbers on 2021 University Heights flats about 150 pounds per household, per year. Education is definitely something we need to be constantly doing.

Mr. Gould commented that the city has been at a standstill. Council commissioned a survey through Baldwin Wallace, Dr. Tom Sutton. Dr. Sutton has done some work for the water district and various community research surveys. The Mayor would not send out the survey because there were not financial questions on it. Council specifically remove those because no one intends on raising the taxes and does not want to scare the residents into thinking that their taxes are going to go up if they were to choose one thing or the other on the survey. So, there is a survey that council approved, it was funded and the Mayor was authorized to send out. When it comes to options, which would move to a cart system, that is dead on arrival because there are not enough votes on Council to pass and change from backyard trash pickup to curbside trash pickup right now. But I would like to ask some questions about the system that we have now and what the Eastside Consortium is.

The Eastside consortium is a group of eight or nine communities that the district has worked with for almost 20 years now. They are all self-collectors and a volume-based industry, the more volume you can present to somebody, the lower the price.

Additional discussion was held regarding the various recycling processes.

**F. Ordinance 2022-19 Amending Ordinance 2022-15 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 to Increase ARPA Budget by an Additional \$129,420 for Cedar Road Project and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency)**

Mr. Kennedy reported that this was to appropriate the additional money relative to the ODOT's Cedar Road resurfacing project. The permanent budget which was passed at the beginning of March included the initial allocation that was designated for the escrow account for ODOT. The additional money was approved by the Finance Committee and needed to be added to the permanent appropriations.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. Kennedy when it came to the initial award, was there anything that needed to be officially budgeted or received for auditing purposes to say that it is coming from the Federal Government.

Mr. Kennedy replied that he would amended the projected revenue estimates that will be received tentatively from Cuyahoga County. And that he believed that once that money is offered to the City that Council would be in a position to approve the acceptance of that claim. Mr. McConville agreed with Mr. Kennedy.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. RACH for the Approval of Ordinance 2022-19 Amending Ordinance 2022-15 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 to Increase ARPA Budget by an Additional \$129,420 for Cedar Road Project and Declaring an Emergency (on emergency). Roll call on the suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."**

**G. Motion Authorizing the Purchase of a New Scag Zero Turn Riding Lawn Mower through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing from Scag Power Equipment, Maryville, WI in an amount not to exceed \$9,203.00**

Mr. Pokorny reported that this item was to replace a 2006 Scag Tiger Cub, which is 16 years old. This unit was located by Sourcewell and is for cooperative for cooperative purchasing. The item would be coming from North Royalton Power Equipment in North Royalton, Ohio and cost \$9,203.

Mrs. Weiss asked if this purchase was part of the capital replacement line of the budget.

Mr. Pokorny replied yes.

**MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX authorizing the Purchase of a New Scag Zero Turn Riding Lawn Mower through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing from Scag Power Equipment, Maryville, WI in an amount not to exceed \$9,203.00. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**H. Motion Authorizing an Increase in the Quantity of Road Salt in the ODOT 18-21 Winter Contract from 2,300 tons to 2,303.19 tons**

Mr. Pokorny reported that this item was in regards the purchased of an additional 103 tons more than what was originally talked about in the purchase of salt in conjunction with the ODOT contract. Mr. Pokorny said that he had originally indicated to council that he would be purchasing between 1800 tons and 2200 tons. This winter actually 2303 tons was purchased for an overage amount of 103 tons over the previously estimated amount and representing \$3,857.30. Although the contract was through ODOT, the invoice is from Cargill Salt and it is waiting to be paid.

**MOTION BY MR. GOULD, SECONDED BY MR. KING Authorizing an Increase in the Quantity of Road Salt in the ODOT 18-21 Winter Contract from 2,300 tons to 2,303.19 tons. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**I Resolution 2022-20 Authorizing the City's Participation in the ODOT 18-23 Winter Contract for Road Salt**

Mr. Pokorny reported that ODOT had already put out a request to all cities in Ohio about participating in their contract and we have until March 15 to indicate that we are participating with them by sending the required signed resolution by the deadline. The process also requires that the city estimates again, how much salt will be used. This time instead of estimating 2000 tons of salt, Mr. Pokorny increased that amount to 2500 tons of salt. And that will provide the city with either the 2250 ton minimum and up to 2750 ton as the maximum amount of salt.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD for the passage of Resolution 2022-20 Authorizing the City's Participation in the ODOT 18-23 Winter Contract for Road Salt. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**J. Motion to Authorize Seeking Bids for one (1) Kubota Utility Refuse Collection Vehicle**

Mr. Pokorny stated that the purchase of this vehicle was necessary because there are only six vehicles and they are rotated every six years, although they barely make the six-year mark. From an equipment standpoint this is pretty critical as this is probably one of the most important equipment purchase purchases for the year. Mr. Pokorny said that unfortunately he had given this to finance for funding and it did not receive that funding. So now he was requesting that it get budgeted for purchase. If necessary Mr. Pokorny said he would not purchase the wood chipper in order to purchase this Kubota instead. The wood chipper was budgeted at \$40,000 and the Kubota would probably be \$19,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Gould added that there had been some discussion about trying to obtain hybrid versions of the Kubotas and asked Mr. Pokorny if there was such a thing and if they had been implemented anywhere successfully or if there was a run off of alternative fuels rather than just gasoline?

Mr. Pokorny replied no and that he had looked into it but the components that the city has been purchasing are only diesel engines, and he actually was not aware of any batter versions.

Mrs. Weiss asked Mayor Brennan to get together with Mr. Kennedy and make sure about the capital asset plan to make sure that the first two years are updated just to reflect Mr. Pokorny's department needs.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to Authorize Seeking Bids for one (1) Kubota Utility Refuse Collection Vehicle. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**K. Motion to Accept Grant Funding from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency in the amount of \$251,000 for the Implementation of Pedestrian Crosswalks and Bump-Outs at Traymore and Hillbrook Roads**

Mr. Englebrecht reported that the Warrensville Center and Cedar Road Multimodal Transportation Plan or TLCI plan, which was prepared by NOACA in November of 2015 aimed to improve connectivity for pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit riders plan focused on physical improvements to the main thoroughfares of Cedar Road and Warrensville Center Road. The plan included several elements which would enhance the functionality of Warrensville Center Road and making the road more hospitable to crossing for pedestrians. The project also included plans which would make the road more accessible to pedestrians using alternative forms of transportation, such as bicycles or scooters. To date, there is still much work that has to be done for the city's 2015 TLCI plan to be fully realized. The parts of the plan which have been implemented to date include the striping of bicycle lanes along Warrensville Center Road and the pedestrian mid-block crossings located the between Hillbrook and Traymore Roads, along with the mid-block crossing located between Meadowbrook and Fairmont. The grant funding request to NOACA is another step towards the plans called realization. The portion of the plan we requested funding for will involve the bump outs of the curbs along Warrensville Center Road at Traymore Road and Hillbrook Road intersections, thereby shortening the current width of 65 feet along Warrensville Center Road by approximately six feet at all four corners of the intersection. Newly painted crosswalks along Warrensville Center Road are also part of the plan at the intersections. Seeding and mulching will enhance erosion control and the newly formed greenescapes. Within the curb bumps, and solar powered rectangular rapid flashing beacon signs will increase visibility during all times a day at the crosswalks as well. The improvements would allow for the increased ability for the pedestrian to walk use a bicycle scooter or other mode of transportation outside of automobiles to get from their home to their school, home from work house or house

of worship or other destination would allow for an increase in physical activity, thereby potentially having a positive impact on public health. Essentially, this project looks to enhance Warrensville Center Road's, usability for those who want to travel by means other than an automobile or for the record by bus, thereby enhancing the quality of life for residents who call the city home. The city's request for funding was originally \$256,000, through NOACA's transportation for Livable Communities implementation grant \$251,000 was approved by NOACA. The grant would not cover engineering costs, these costs were not included. In the estimate. Previously, last year Council passed a motion allowing for the city to provide matching funds if required, up to \$51,246, which would cover the cost of engineering along with the construction and the construction supervising as well. The grant is funded by Federal Transportation dollars, which typically would require the work to be completed before being reimbursed by NOACA. This is just part of the step in the process of moving forward towards the construction of the bump outs along Warrensville Center Road.

Mr. Rach asked if this was just a motion to accept the grant funding and not to accept the cost because the total cost of the project is not known yet.

Mr. Englebrecht said he believed that the engineering cost was recently estimated by Mr. Ciuni with an extra cost of \$25,000 bring the grand total to \$256,000 as of right now plus the \$25,000.

Mr. Rach asked what the city's match was. Mr. Englebrecht replied that the city's match would be the engineering cost.

Mr. Rach asked if the city's match was the \$25,000 or an extra \$25,000 on top of something.

Mr. Englebrecht replied that the city's cost would be anything above the \$251,000.

Mr. Rach commented/asked over the engineering costs.

Mr. Englebrecht replied yes, the engineering cost is \$25,000.

Mr. Rach stated \$25,000 out the door for engineering.

Mr. Englebrecht replied yes.

Mr. Rach added, so the \$251,000 is for the project and University Heights would be up for the \$25,000.

Mr. Englebrecht replied yes.

Mr. Rach noted that he suggested in a previous meeting that Council review drawings, and asked if drawings exist for this work already.

Mr. Englebrecht stated that in the past renderings were produced during the planning process with NOACA in 2015.

Mr. Rach said that he served on that committee and was familiar with what it looked like. But for benefit of Council, there were no drawings in the Council meeting packet and that would be helpful to include all of those items so that Council understand the gravity of this project. Being on the committee and being familiar with the project, Mr. Rach recommended going forward with it. Just going forward Council would really like to have all that information or packets. But since Mr. Rach had just mentioned that request recently he said he was okay at this time. But it's something to keep in mind, the future as much information as Council can digest, ahead of the meetings will be extremely profitable.

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

Mayor Brennan asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for two real estate matters and a litigation matter.

**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Litigation and Real Estate Matters. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**Director's Reports**

**Finance Department – Mr. Kennedy** reported that he would be getting out the revenue expense statement and cash investment portfolio reports for the months of January and February.

**Law Department – Mr. McConville** provided council with a brief update on the University Square. It is anticipated that the city will be getting the final appraisal for the properties at University Square this week. Once in receipt of the final appraisal, the city is prepared to send out notices of intent to acquire to both the owner of the core retail parcel and the owner of the garage parcel. That will start the clock ticking on the filing for eminent domain which can happen as soon as 30 days after those notices are sent. Mr. McConville said that he had initial discussions with Mrs. Weiss with respect to a Charter Review Commission ordinance. Draft ordinances have or are in the process of going to committee; one to update the code for asphalt provisions and a second ordinance for Mr. Gould's committee's review in connection with fireworks exhibitions.

**Fire Department – Chief Perko** reported that this week started the Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week and that each day has a theme that could be found on the National Weather Service. Thus far the theme has been being prepared and making a plan. The department has posted on its social media pages some information from the County Emergency Management Office on how to make a plan and be prepared. The theme for tonight was severe weather thunderstorm preparedness. With the spring storm season starting and when a storm comes through and multiple power lines and trees, etc. are down the department encourages people to stay inside. Many residents take it upon themselves to notify the utility company which is good, but it is also encouraged that they also notify the Fire Department so it can go out and determine the area is safe. The annual hydrant flushing and flow testing will start during the month of April.

**Service Department – Mr. Pokorny** reminded council that beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> the department will start loose leaf collection of curbside leaves and untied brush through the month of April.

**Housing and Community Development – Geoff Englebrecht** stated that the Department began sending out notices to landlords in regards to them registering their properties. A physical audit of all files in the department was completed and discovered several landlords did not register their properties with the city in the past year, notices were sent to everybody that was delinquent. The department is also in the process of catching up on the collection of data from the new owners to verify if they were still renting their properties or living in them.

**City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni** had no report. Mr. Gould asked Mr. Ciuni to forward the communication from the State making the request for the expedited payment.

There were no other director reports.

#### **Standing Council Committees:**

**Building and Housing** – Mrs. Blankfeld stated that the committee met just prior to the regular council meeting for continued discussion regarding the point of sale inspection process. It has been determined that overall, especially thanks to Mr. Englebrecht and his attention to detail in how the code is written and that how it stands presently is how it should be followed, both for safety and for maintenance of a beautiful aging, housing stock. With that said, there is always room for discussion, we welcome it. The committee will also be exploring in the future months meetings how the codified ordinance looks at maintenance of exterior property areas.

**Community Outreach** – Mr. King reported that the Tech Advisory Committee met on March 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Economic Development** – Mr. Rach reported that during the retreat council came up with goals for every committee and the Economic Development Committee had three goals - zoning, zoning and zoning. understanding that the work on the new zoning code will soon be underway. Mr. Rach said he was very excited about that and that he would like to schedule a meeting sometime in April or May to begin the process of formalizing a steering committee. It is important that a committee is formalized. The last time the Zoning Code was looked at a number of years ago he was a part of the zoning process and remembered that the steering committee included administration, members of Council to members of ARB, the Architectural Review Board, two members of the Board of Zoning Appeals, members of Planning Commission, residents, JCU representative and members from the business community. That made for a group being quite large, so maybe consideration may want to be given to condensing that number. But that and what that would look like can be discuss in the committee. Mr. Rach added he understood that ZoneCo

would be doing their process in four modules and the committee would begin its extensive work during module three.

**Finance** – Mrs. Weiss said that she would be scheduling a Strategic Planning Committee (a sub-committee of the Finance Committee) soon to discuss long term strategy for the city.

committee will be working with a Steering Committee on the new zoning code. And now that the budget has been approved, funds have been appropriated for ZoneCo as the selected company to conduct the rezoning. Mr. Rach added that he was hoping to get a update from the mayor's office if the ZoneCo contract was completed.

Mayor Brennan replied that the contract was not ready to go yet.

Mr. Rach stated that they would work with the administration on timing for that.

**Service Committee** – Mr. Rach read the report that Mrs. Sax provided to him for the meeting that was held on Tuesday, March 15 2022.

Increasing awareness, education and program promotion of the 2020 Solid Waste study continued with a presentation by Zoey at the store, who is the director of residential service for the Rust Belt rider. The committee made a formal recommendation that administration proceed with implementing participation in their neighborhood drop-off program in a centrally located public space that is accessible 24/7 365 days a year. For residents, the subscription service costs \$10 per month, and residents may purchase a weekly home pick up and swap for \$30 per week. After that, the committee continued its discussion regarding recycling. We agreed upon initial goals to improve cost of recycling through improvement of the city's recycling rate, which is currently at 5%. A few important factors that need to be pointed out. #1 recycling in University Heights is an opt in service, it's voluntary. Perhaps that's why the numbers are so low. #2 contaminated recyclables can ruin the entire load. #3 loose recycling is an important factor to increase the recycling rates by decreasing the contaminated recyclables and #4 purchasing 4,064 gallon bins for an unknown number of households who actually recycle again it's opt in is the epitome of wishful thinking and wishful recycling. We want to change that. There were comparisons made between neighborhood, sorry neighboring cities that engage in backyard blue bag recycling, and backyard loose recycling and curbside automated. According to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste district in the 2020 annual report card. Shaker Heights, also does backyard pickup, but they do lose recycling in the backyard. Their recycling rate is 9%, a little about double ours. Pepper Pike also does backyard pickup. They do not do loose but they have bagged blue bag, backyard recycling pickup, and their recycling rate is 11%. South Euclid does curbside pickup, their rate is actually less than Pepper Pike's even though it is curbside at 10%. And Beachwood is at 13%. In Cuyahoga County, over 69% of the county or more than two thirds, which are curbside manual and automated collections are less than 13%. The Solid Waste Districts report card indicates that the metrics in Shaker, Pepper Pike, Beachwood and South Euclid are within the county average and that they have mixed between curbside, and backyard. The analysis of this data indicates three main relevant points that backyard collection, either loose or bagged can achieve nearly the same or better recycling rates than curbside. Other cities with backyard recycling collection implement best practices that University Heights may be able to adapt in order to improve our recycling. And practices that may actually reduce the rate include automated curbside recycling with 64 gallon bins if they are used for solid waste or there's contamination within the recyclables or residents unable to continue their opting in. The recommendation is that the administration prepare, present and implement backyard code of both solid waste and loose recycling with the goal of improving the University Heights recycling rate, while lowering its cost. Mrs. Sax encourages as many residents as possible to attend the Service and Utilities committee meetings in person, by zoom, or watch them on the city's youtube channel at your convenience, feedback to the Mayor and Mrs. Sax is encouraged.

**Council Committee of the Whole** – Mrs. Weiss stated that the committee will meet on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm to begin the discussion with departments on the facilities assessment and to formally create a subcommittee for facilities and infrastructure.

**Reports of special committees, and the taking of action thereon**

None

**Unfinished and miscellaneous business**

None

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



**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. SAX to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45p.m.

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Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

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Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council