



CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:10 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Downey, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil,
L. Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong

Topic of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:33 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Downey, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil, L.
Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, July 6, 2010 were approved and signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

"Hi, my name is Chris Johnson, I live at 848 Cambridge Road."

"Good evening, I'm Major William Figgy Koeckert, United States Army, a resident of Cleveland Heights at Windsor and Cambridge. Your Honor, I happen to have a hearing impediment."

Mayor Kelley replied, "I'll speak very loudly so you can hear me."

Major Koeckert continued, "As my cap indicates, too many wars."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Thank you for your service, thank you very much."

Major Koeckert continued, "Better to be a survivor."

Mayor Kelley addressed Ms. Johnson, "Go ahead, Chris."

Ms. Johnson stated, "I presented to City Council a concern on Cambridge Road and that concern, I believe this was back in May, was vehicles speeding and not obeying our stop signs and we were concerned it would be putting our children at risk for injury. As a result of that, official vehicles posted in and offending vehicles were ticketed. A speed limit sign was hung and the officers that performed the duty showed much attentiveness, respect and professionalism while they were sentries on our street. We wanted to show our appreciation, so we signed a thank you poster that was designed by the Ridley children and wanted to say that we cannot thank you enough. So, the Ridley children on Cambridge Road designed the poster and I went around to the homes and got signatures and house numbers of people that were very happy about this."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Thank you, Chris. You want to present that to Councilman Montlack, he's the Chair of Public Health & Safety Committee and I'm sure he'll be more than happy to accept that from you. Chris, if it's alright with you and your residents, your fellow people that live on Cambridge and Windsor, we'd like to put that somewhere down in City Hall and display it, because I think it's the first time in many of our years here that we've gotten something that nice, homemade and just for Cleveland Heights, so we'd like, with your permission, to display it somewhere downstairs in City Hall. I think it's a little bit big for our case, maybe on the wall or where people can see it. I really want to thank you. It really warms our heart that you took time out of your schedule and you did all this, but it was you that came here and asked a question and asked for help and we responded in a positive fashion. This is what happens when our residents come to us and let us know things aren't so good on their street or something is not right and we're able to respond and jump in. So, I'd like to display that on behalf of Council downstairs for a long period of time because it sends a nice message, not just as a stop sign. Our logo is in there. Tell us about the children who worked on the poster."

Ms. Johnson answered, "There are three children in the Ridley family of varying ages. The oldest girl has just graduated from high school and the other too, I'm sorry I don't know - the young boy looks like he's about six and the middle girl is somewhere in the middle there. I had approached them about making the poster because whenever I'm walking one of my dogs on Cambridge Road they have awesome sidewalk chalk art. Their mother laughed at me when I told her I never walk on it because it's just so artistic. So when I asked them if they would do it, they were very happy and the mom was happy, because she said it put little siblings who sometimes don't all get along together, working on one project and they were very pleased with the outcome, too and I was very pleased."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Well, thank you. Major, thank you for coming also and your service to our country."

Major Koeckert replied, "It's a pleasure to be a citizen of this City and I'm speaking personally and with no relationship to the subject that the lady has brought to your attention, I want to tell you what a fine job I think our City officials and the staff of several departments are doing. It's a pleasure to be here. I was a little concerned, when some ten years ago after being a resident of Shaker Heights for many, many years preceding. I moved to Cleveland Heights ten years ago this month. I've never regretted a moment since."

Mayor Kelley joking replied, "Great! I think we're going to adjourn the meeting on that one. But again, thank you, thank you very much. Chris, I really appreciate you also coming to our meetings and chatting with us after the meetings. I really appreciate it. Major, please come back here, you're more than welcome any time."

Major Koeckert added, "Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have just one item this evening and that would be to request authority to advertise for bids for the Runnymede Boulevard water line replacement project."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record and referred it to the Municipal Services Committee of Council.

Council Member Caplan moved that the City Manager be given the authority as requested.

Second by Vice Mayor Evans.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None

Motion passed

Mr. Downey continued, "That is all I have this evening, your Honor, other than we could look at making the last comments a commercial for a television show. Thank you, Chris."

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "I have nothing to report, your Honor."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have one piece of legislation and it is Resolution No. 92-2010(MS), approving a Change Order with South Shore Electric, Inc. for a contract for the Community Center/Ice Rink Lighting Renovation Project; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. By Resolution No. 87-2009 this Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Energy ("DOE") for acceptance of a grant in the sum of One Hundred Eighty-two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$182,300.00) under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program for an energy audit of the North Ice Rink and energy efficiency improvements to the Rink. The City subsequently awarded a contract to South Shore Electric, Inc. for lighting renovations to the Rink to improve energy efficiency; and extra work items requested by the City to enhance the control of the new lighting resulted in an increase in price. South Shore Electric, Inc. has submitted to the City a proposed Change Order covering the additional costs, and such proposal has been recommended by the City's Capital Projects Manager. The extra costs will be covered by the DOE grant. Therefore, be it resolved by this Council that the following change from the original specifications for the work performed shall than be changed to adjust the original contract amount by an increase of \$13,651.87 due to additional work requested by the City. The original contract sum was \$106,499.00 and now the contract sum will be \$120,150.87.

Just so that you know, we still have some money left and we are going to use it to continue doing smaller energy efficiency projects at the Community Center until we use up all that money.

I offer Resolution No. 92-2010(MS) for passage tonight as an emergency."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 92-2010(MS).

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you. There is no legislation from this committee tonight, but I did have one announcement and that is respecting our Strategic Development Plan update. For the last year and a half or so the Planning Commission has been working on updating the City's Strategic Development Plan that was pursuant to a charge of Council and I am happy to report that we have received a draft of that Plan containing the Planning Commission's recommendations to Council. The Plan is now on our website and available to anyone to review. If you get on the website and click on what's new you'll be able to review or download a copy of the Plan and it is very easy when you get on the website to email comments on the Plan directly back to the Planning Commission. You can also obviously get a copy of the Plan here at City Hall and Council has also set a Public Hearing on the Strategic Development Plan draft for September 13th at 7:00 p.m. at our Community Center and at that time you'll also be able to submit comments in writing or make comments at the meeting. And, of course, we'll have other announcements along the way and reminders about this important Plan. After we receive those comments and have the Public Hearing, Council will again review the Plan - will probably take one working session to look at it and make any final comments we may have and then this will be our final Strategic Plan Update. Before I conclude, I certainly wanted to thank our Planning Commission, our entire Planning Commission for the many long hours. There have been many meetings, special meetings, meetings that went until ten or eleven at night, where we've gotten good input from everybody on the Planning Commission and of course our Planning Commission staff, led by Richard Wong, our Planning Director, Kara Hamley O'Donnell and Karen Knittel who really spent many, many hours. I really have no idea how many hours, but it's a lot and they've done a really nice job putting this together and we're looking forward to seeing what our residents think about our Strategic Plan Update. That concludes my report."

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. When there are properties in Cleveland Heights, that in the normal course of things, such as housing inspection, perhaps Housing Court are not taken care of and become, in fact, a nuisance, a blight in the community we have a special procedure to deal with such properties. When that happens, our Housing Programs Manager Rick Wagner inspects the housing, makes some determinations, takes photographs, writes up a report and submits that all to City Council with recommendations with regard to declaring a nuisance. We have two such properties tonight and before I read the legislation, I'd like to ask Rick Wagner to come to the podium and starting with 851 Nelaview, if you would, please, display the photos and if you would give us a quick review of some of the physical problems attending this house and damaging the house."

Mr. Wagner displayed the photographs and proceeded, "This house came to our attention from a lot of complaints in the neighborhood. It had been vacant since prior to the sheriff's sale back in 2006. It has experienced the ravages of time, the gutters and soffits are rotted away, it actually looks half-way decent just due to the fact that it did have the old aluminum siding that was holding it together. The point of sales did not take place on that with the exception of an old one from 2008 and at that point the cost of just the Class A violations was \$34,000.00. Today, I'm sure, it would be vastly more. The cost of rehabbing this house would far exceed market value. The best bet for this house would be to tear it down."

Council Member Montlack continued, "Thank you very much and just so I won't have to call you up again, would you please give the same kind of report showing photos for the property at 875 Nelaview Road."

Mr. Wagner stated, "This house, actually, just a few doors down the street had been vacant since 2007. We did get inside to do a point of sale. The Class A violations themselves were over \$75,000.00. The house is very deteriorated. All the wood casings are off the windows, holes in the roof, rotted siding, rotted porches and just deplorable. Again, the cost of repairing would far exceed market value on this property. The best bet would be to take it down."

Council Member Montlack continued, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Kelley added, "I would like to ask a question."

Council Member Montlack requested Mr. Wagner to stay at the podium to answer some questions.

Mayor Kelley stated, "Would you explain to our residents what happens now, once we vote on this and pass it and the timing factor here. They're not going to be torn down tomorrow, but give them an idea of what the process is so the residents on Nelaview or anybody in that area that is going to be affected by this knows what the process is - that we're not going to be there tomorrow knocking it down. We'd like to be there tomorrow, but we're not."

Mr. Wagner replied, "Well, we have to follow state statute on the nuisance ordinance. What we do, we do a lien search and all party holders [who] are interested lien holders of the property are notified. They have thirty (30) days to abate the nuisance, if you will. In the absence of that, after the thirty days we could finally take action. At that point we'd go out to bid, go with the lowest bidders and any costs that we incur are certified as a lien on the property tax."

Mayor Kelley added, "We're talking probably late August/early September?"

Mr. Wagner replied, "Correct, correct. We are also in between these two houses [we] have a house that the City owns under the NSP program, 861 Nelaview. We'll have a beautiful rehab. So we're taking care of a lot of the problems that we are finding on Nelaview and cleaning up."

Council Member Montlack continued, "Thank you. The first such legislation is Resolution No. 93-2010(PSH), declaring the property at 851 Nelaview Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency.

This property, as with the one that is subject of the next legislation, these two properties are very good evidence of the kind of foreclosed, vacant and abandoned properties plague and misfeasance by the lenders and the owners that has been visited on cities across the United States and certainly that includes Cleveland Heights. Thankfully, here in this City we have a very dedicated staff that gets out and takes care of as many of these as is humanly possible. The property at 851 Nelaview was taken back, at one time, by our good Wells Fargo. There was a point of sale inspection. There were escrow funds required and Wells Fargo was able to transfer the property on an expired point of sale inspection report. As a result, they escaped escrow. Finally, the property was transferred several times. It is now in Housing Court, but as has been indicated by Mr. Wagner it is past the point of no return.

So, Resolution No. 93-2010(PSH), declaring this property a nuisance is on for first reading and passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 93-2010(PSH).

Roll Call: Ayes: Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Evans

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

Council Member Montlack continued, "Thank you. Resolution No. 94-2010(PSH), declaring the property at 875 Nelaview Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency.

This is a single-family dwelling currently owned by something called CRN Management, LLC and it has a similar history. There was no current point of sale when it was transferred. It was returned to the lender, another good friend of ours, Deutsche Bank and serviced by Litton Asset Management by a sheriff's sale. There were other interceding owners and the estimated cost to take care of the most serious kinds of repairs is in excess of \$75,000.00 and the total property is currently assessed at less than \$30,000.00 and therefore, like the other property we discussed here tonight it will be a candidate for demolition.

Resolution No. 94-2010(PSH) is presented on first reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 94-2010(PSH).

Roll Call: Ayes: Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Evans, Kelley

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

Council Member Montlack continued, "Let me say that we all understand that there are other properties out there, there are other houses that need attention and that are also part of this foreclosed, vacant and abandoned properties syndrome and if there is one that you or any of you know of on your street or in your neighborhood that you think has not come to our attention for any reason, please contact us. You can certainly always call the Housing Programs' office. You can call my office at 216-320-5800. Very often, as I turn these over to Rick Wagner and the Housing Programs' folks we find out that they are aware of the property and I can find out what exactly is being done. We're going to continue to search out every house that is damaging our neighborhoods and that concludes this report."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Stephens stated, "Thank you, your Honor. This evening there is no report from the Administrative Services Committee."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 95-2010(CRR), this is just going to be on first reading only, amending the use regulations and rates for admission and other services for the Cleveland Heights Community Center and parks for the 2010-2011 fall/winter season, and repealing Ordinance No. 70-2009. The City of Cleveland Heights annually reviews its use regulations and rates for admission and other services for its Community Center and parks. In anticipation of the 2010-2011 fall/winter season, it is deemed desirable to reaffirm the 2009-2010 regulations with minimal rate changes.

I would just like to go over the area in which there are changes and the first one is in SECTION 2 - RATES AND CHARGES - ICE RINKS and in (g) Group Instruction: Cleveland Heights residents with skating pass was \$5.00 will be increased to \$6.00 for half hour lessons. Cleveland Heights residents with an I.D. card will be increased to \$7.00 for half hour lesson from \$6.00. A Non-resident with a skating pass was \$7.00 and our proposal is to increase it to \$8.00. Non-resident without pass was \$9.00 for the half hour lesson and we're recommending a \$10.00 charge. Under (k) which is the Ice Rink - City free style ice rental a Seven (7) session card was \$50.00, proposed to increase it to \$56.00 and also a Monthly free style pass, which was \$100.00 for I.D. holders, the new amount will be \$120.00 and all others will be increased to \$150.00 from \$120.00. Section (n) the rates and charges for non-travel youth hockey for the next season for the Tot Hockey six week sessions, we're proposing an increase from \$30.00 to \$36.00 for Cleveland Heights residents and for Non-residents from \$48.00 to \$54.00. Section (o) for Speed Skating the increase for Recreation I.D. holders will be from \$7.00 for a half hour session to \$8.00. All others, taking lessons, will be increased from \$9.00 to \$10.00 for the half an hour session. Under SECTION 6 RATES AND CHARGES - ADULT AND YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES, MISCELLANEOUS. The following changes are being proposed: Men's Hockey Resident will be increased to \$125.00 for one program and for two programs the increase would be to \$195.00. Under Non-resident will be increased to \$205.00 for one program, \$305.00 for two programs. Under (2) Women and Co-ed Hockey, the increase will be from \$105.00 to \$125.00 for Resident fee and for Non-resident fee will be increased from \$185.00 to \$205.00. Those are all the proposed increases.

As you know, we increased in several more areas last year and we feel that we did want to strongly encourage our residents to continue to use our facilities and programs as much as possible so we are trying to keep the costs as reasonable as possible.

As I said earlier, this is on first reading only. We'll talk about passage in a couple of weeks. That's Ordinance No. 95-2010(CRR).

I'd like for you to mark your calendars to be at the Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival and Arts & Crafts Show which is scheduled for Sunday, August 8th from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please call 216-791-3172 or visit www.cedarfairmount.org to obtain a list of all the activities and all of the programs that are being offered that day for our entertainment. I am sure it is going to be a lot of fun, so do put it on your calendar.

The other thing to think about is to pull out your Cain Park schedule for all of the shows that are at Cain Park this summer. There are still a good number of those that are being offered and it's always a great time. Please take a look. See if you can fit it into budget and visit Cain Park at least once or twice more this summer.

I'd like to thank everyone involved that works with the City for making our Cain Park Arts Festival such a success. It was held a couple weekends ago and as you may well know, in order for this to work as well as it does, there are a good number of people that really volunteer to work to make it as well-organized as it has been. All of this comes under the direction of Susanna O'Neil who definitely works very hard in making sure that all the parts and pieces fit together as best as possible. So I'd like to give a hardy thanks to her and all of those people who work under her direction.

Also a hardy thank you to Public Works who go down there beforehand and after and all the extra things that they do and that's under the direction of Director Alex Mannarino. It is a wonderful, wonderful festival. I hope that most of all of our residents were in attendance and if not there is always next year. That concludes this report for this evening."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have three pieces of legislation tonight. First is Resolution No. 85-2010(F), approving the adoption of the 2011 Tax Budget; and declaring an emergency.

We had a public meeting on this earlier this evening and invited public comment. We went over it. Over the past two weeks it was introduced at our previous Council meeting and has been available for public review through the Clerk of Council. After a lot of discussion and to give you an idea of how this all is going to work, this tax budget is submitted to the county and it sets forth what we are projecting our income and expenditures to be in the 2011 fiscal year, which for us runs from January through December. We have to get this in by the end of this month. This is how the state then returns income taxes to us, what our small share of property taxes is and the state-shared levy funds. So if we don't submit a tax budget showing what we think we're getting and what we're going to be spending it on, we don't get any money and that would be truly a very, very bad thing. This is the first step in a very long process for the city. The next big thing that you'll have legislatively is towards the end of this year. We'll do two specific bills. One will be making adjustments in this year's expenditures and more importantly making the appropriations for next year's expenditures and that appropriation bill is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that the council passes, because it sets where the money is going to go and what it is going to get spent on.

For the 2011 Tax Budget year we are projecting an income of 41 million dollars and a few cents over and we are projecting expenditures of 40.9 million. So there is not a lot of room. We are struggling to make sure that remains balanced. It's the sound fiscal management of the staff. They are taking a lot of cuts. We are doing a lot of balancing and the sound management over the past couple years to shepherd money so that we can continue to go through what we hope is the last year of significant economic turmoil. So we have developed a tax budget that is balanced and will be sent to the county and over the coming months there will be lots of discussions as the numbers firm up. This is a project for next year made in July of this year. So as you can imagine there will be significant changes between now and the time that we'll actually appropriate the funds to meet the budget.

So, I would like to introduce Resolution No. 85-2010(F), Second Reading, for passage."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 85-2010(F), Second Reading.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stephens, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

Council Member Tumeo continued, "Next, I would like to introduce Resolution No. 96-2010(F), amending Resolution No. 75-2010 which authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Heights Parent Center for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for assistance with the Center's *Family School Connection Program* to reflect the fact that Heights Parent Center will merge with another non-profit corporation to form a new entity, Family Connections, as of August 1, 2010; and declaring an emergency.

As you know, we do several contracts with our block grant money - goes through a very long process. The Heights Parent Center has been a long-time recipient of funding to support programs here in Cleveland Heights. They are merging with a similar center from the City of Shaker Heights and that new legal entity will have a new name and the new name is called Family Connections and

the program which was previously called the *Family School Connection Program* will now be called the *Family School Connection Program*. So they are not changing the name of the program. The program will still be delivered in Cleveland Heights, serving Cleveland Heights' residents, but the legal name of the organization is changing, therefore, we have to modify our contract to reflect the new legal name, otherwise nothing else changes in the contract. It is just that the new legal entity is to fulfill it.

I would like to introduce Resolution No. 96-2010(F) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 96-2010(F).

Roll Call: Ayes: Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

Council Member Tumeo continued, "Thank you, your Honor. Now, I would like to introduce Resolution No. 97-2010(F), authorizing an agreement with Henschen and Associates Inc. for professional services related to the implementation of an integrated document imaging and redaction system for the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency.

The Supreme Court of the State has ordered all the municipal courts to become paperless and to move to a system where many of the forms and dockets that they process are online and available for other courts in the region, so the courts can stay coordinated and reduce the overall paper work which is where there will be cost-savings and be environmental sound.

The Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, under the direction of Judge Buchanan, is projecting that it will become paperless within the next year. To do that, there has to be a system put in where the documents that come in are imaged and information that isn't public is redacted or blacked out and then those documents are posted online so that everyone can have access. Henschen and Associates Inc. submitted a proposal to provide all those services especially for the software portion of that and the terms are reasonable and competitive. This is a service, and there is no competitive bidding that is necessary. Under this Resolution, the Council authorizes the agreement with Henschen and Associates Inc. for these services. The compensation shall not exceed the sum of Thirty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Ten Dollars (\$37,510.00).

It is being provided out of the Special Projects Fund of the court.

I would like to introduce Resolution No. 97-2010(F) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 97-2010(F).

Roll Call: Ayes: Wilcox, Caplan, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Stephens, Tumeo

Nays: None _____ **Resolution passed**

Council Member Tumeo continued, "Thank you. Just a couple of comments. First of all in balancing the budget, as you know, we just went through the tax budget. We're still experiencing very difficult times. We are acting conservatively with our budget. We are projecting next year that our income will be flat. We are hopeful that with some of the turn-around that seems to be trickling into the system, that we're being overly conservative with our income estimates and that there might actually be a little more money in the system, but it is always better to plan for not having it and then be able to deal with the fact that you have more than you expected than to plan for it and not get it and have to

make cuts. So, we're being very conservative and it's difficult. We're struggling [end of tape] and more cuts and we are pretty much at a bare-bone situation in the city, but it is our responsibility to insure that the services are delivered and we remain balanced and we are doing that.

One of the things that I think that's important that you note in this discussion is we are not taking this as only a - we are going to stay stagnant. We have to be able to reallocate resources and invest in growth areas, make sure that we're prepared for when the economy does get better and most importantly and insure that the issues that are citizens bring forward are addressed promptly and quickly. Those things all take money and it means that you have to have money in reserve, cause you are never quite sure what problem is going to come at you at what time and you do need to respond quickly and appropriately when those issues come up. To that end, I am grateful that you came forward and I say thank you, Chris. It actually, I almost teared up a little, because it really doesn't happen and it does take a little extra money to focus resources when problems come. So, we are putting together budgets in such a way that those resources are held in a contingency so that we can address issues as they come up and we're not in a bad situation. So that means we have to plan very prudently. It's tough, lots of discussions and often when we're not here when 7:30 rolls around it's because we're discussing a budget issue. So, we are continuing that process. I would like to give a lot of kudos to the staff, because whenever there's a problem, they are the ones that always bear the brunt of it. They are the ones that have to come up with the plans and struggle with us and it's not fun and I want to publicly say that they do a great job, under very difficult circumstances and I personally am very deeply appreciative of their continued support of this city.

The second thing I'd like to say. We talked about this at the last meeting and I'm sure many of you have already gotten your notice from the post office that there is a certified letter waiting for you at the post office from Cleveland Heights. We've received many calls about why did we send this notification via certified letter. We are required by state law to send a certified letter every three years regarding the street assessment and the tree assessment. We don't like sending it certified anymore than you like receiving it certified and having to go to the post office and spending all the money that we have to spend to do it, but it is state law and we do what the state law mandates that we do. So, yes, we are just as frustrated about it and I apologize in advance if you didn't get it at home and you have to go to the post office. The post office is a little overwhelmed. You may have to wait a while to get your letter. We did not prefer to do it that way. We didn't decide to do it that way. We had to do it that way. That's my report, your Honor."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "Speaking of staff, I just want to take time. This is probably the hottest spring and summer we've ever had, so I want to take time to thank our municipal service workers, the guys who pick up your garbage, trim your trees, fix the potholes. They have been working under extreme conditions. I also want to thank all our people involved with our youth programs, our sports programs, the coaches, the umpires, Larry Shaw and his staff, our police and fire. It's not all air conditioned cars or if you're going to a fire - the way the weather we're having, if you're going to a workable fire, it's probably somewhere between 120 and a 150 degrees. These men and women are really giving their all for the city so it would be nice as we were thanked tonight for doing something, so if you do see the guys picking up your garbage or the girl or young woman teaching your son how to swim, thank them. A thank you always goes a long way. We were touched tonight by our thank you for just doing our job and these people are certainly doing their job. The heat is unbelievable, unbearable and these guys are working six in the morning, sometimes until eleven o'clock at night if they are involved with our baseball, our sports programs, our youth camps, you know the people. Many of them have been here for years. So a big thank you, a bottle of water, a glass of water might

go a long way or a glass of lemonade. Help out - my hats off and I know Council feels the same way about these people and the regular people who are working in the air conditioning, because sometimes the air conditioning isn't working. So it's not all a bed of roses here for everybody. But, really it should be time for you to thank one of your city workers that are doing something for you - the guy trimming your trees, it would really be nice and it would make our jobs a lot easier.

I want to thank everyone for coming. Our next meeting will be Monday, August 2, 2010. This meeting is adjourned at 8:15 p.m."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc