



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 5:00 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner, Wong, Zins

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

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:45 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner, Wong, Zins

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, August 4, 2003 had one correction presented by Council Member Caplan, with that error being corrected the minutes were approved and signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

"Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council. My name is James Redhed. I live at 3236 Redwood Road. It may seem like I just get up here only to complain about things and I don't really want it to be that way, but I feel the need to express some disappointment over some of the comments from Council at the last meeting and I realize that, Council, you are free to hold your opinions and whether I agree with them or not, my real issue is with what I would call, the quality of the thoughts, and I think that Cleveland Heights is capable of better. Councilwoman Evans, you mentioned that Jesus Christ never said anything about homosexuality and that is quite true. He also never said anything about killing your grandmother for social security checks or raping children or flying airplanes full of people into buildings. I think it is a lousy rationale to defend a particular chosen behavior and I don't think you, or anyone else here, would accept it for the three cases I just mentioned. If you support the ordinance, that's fine, but I think we can do better than that.

Mr. Mayor, you mentioned a case in the building where you work of somebody getting divorced. I think you said on the third floor and immediately going down and remarrying on another floor. Fine - it happened - that's a fact and you even stated at the time, I believe, that you weren't saying anything right or wrong about it. I will ask you, do you think that is good? Or to put the question another way, if that was normal - if that was the typical way that people dealt with their marriage relationships, would we say that society as a whole would benefit given the documented problems with divorce? You know - just to run off a few - it's from the National Institute of Health: for adults - the effects of divorce, decreased lifetime earnings; decreased ability to form lasting relationships; increased incidence of depression; greater incidence of drug and alcohol abuse; greater incidence of physical abuse in relationships; and for the children of divorce - all of those issues plus decreased lifetime scholastic achievement. I found your comment disturbingly casual, in that, if this is how we are going to defend the ordinance that has been proposed for the domestic partner registry and the issue that some of us took with it that these committed relationships quote unquote, 'can be dissolved and reformed every 90 days'. If you think that's appropriate, that's fine, but I don't think defending it on the basis of sloppy divorce policy is particularly good. Again, it's not - everyone is entitled to their opinions. I just think if we're going to support this or not support it, we have better reasons than things like that. But, I do also just have one other question that I would like to put to certain members of Council who have spoken to this issue. How do you decide which grass-roots effort you support? I've heard at the past meeting and I think maybe three meetings ago when the domestic partners' registry initiative was first presented to Council - support for it and I agree with Councilman Hicks who supports grass roots' efforts this year and last year's. But I wonder why the support was conspicuously absent last year by anyone but Councilman Hicks and I would also point out that the issue last year that gathered more signatures in a third of the time of the issue this year and somehow there has been this strange conversion to a different kind of democratic principal. Last year, some of us said, 'let the people vote'. Many, including the so-called Heights Families for Equality said, 'no - don't let the people vote, let the elected officials do their jobs'. That is your job - that's fine, and the referendum effort failed and that was a legal failure in that there was not - the requirements were not met to force a public vote on that issue. But I just wonder about - on those members of Council who have commented on this, and not all have - why there's this commending of the effort this year, and this year all these signatures mean the people really ought to vote when it didn't mean that last year? Thank you."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Thank you, Mr. Redhed. I'll address the issue that you've raised on me. I've stated my position to you and response to your letter - my position on the ordinance. I've never said I supported the ordinance publicly and in the phone conversation with you. The comment I made to you about the divorce court and getting a marriage license is a factual statement. If you don't understand that, that's just the way it is. Anyone else? Councilwoman Caplan."

Council Member Caplan responded, "I'd like to respond about the difference between the last public attempt at referendum and this one and that last time the legalities were not addressed. This time the legalities were addressed and actually we said we would support putting it on the ballot and that was a unanimous support. There was not a discussion, I don't think of virtually any of us, of whether we supported the issue. It was - the only thing we supported was putting it on the ballot. Thus far, I know for myself anyway, I have not discussed with anybody yet whether I was supporting the issue or not but it was our legal obligation to put it on the ballot and last time in that initiative to try and get a referendum on the ballot, it did not do all the things it needed to be done in order to get something on the ballot. So, therefore it never came for a vote. So that you've drawn the conclusion that we're in support of one thing and against another - support of one group against another and actually that's not a good conclusion. So that the data does not support your thesis. The data is one was legal, one wasn't and we did not talk about supporting the issue, only the legality of putting it on the ballot."

Council Member Evans added, "I simply chose not to debate my statements with you publicly."

Council Member Hicks added, "How I understand Mr. Redhed's comments, and I agree with his comments, is that last year's petition effort whether it was successful or not was viewed and comments were made by other members of Council, that this was awful - is a comment that I remember it being made about the process. I remember people saying, 'I wish they don't get enough signatures'. So there was clearly, you know, an opinion given about the petitioners last year and it certainly wasn't that congratulating them on using the grass roots process that was available to them, just like it was available to the residents of the grass roots process this year. There were even some council members at polling places telling people not to sign the petition, and so again, I agree with Mr. Redhed's comments, it was clearly an objection to the grass roots' effort last year and that was not seen this year."

Council Member Dietrich stated, "My view on that, James, is that the difference between last time and this time is clearly over what was Council's duty and what isn't clearly our duty in the Charter, it clearly gives us and really only us, responsibility over conditions of employment for our City employees - and the last initiative involved - or the referendum attempt involved legislation that we made about our employees. This new legislation or the new initiative is something that is not restricted to our employees and to me that makes it very different as to whether we clearly need to be the people who decide on it or not."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have just one item this evening with two parts that would be to remind Council, in your packets you received a copy of Bid Document No. 2003-19, and the bid tabulation and the award of contract is for the purchase of one tri-axle chassis, dump body and snow plow for the Public Works Division. The lowest and best bidder was Cleveland Mack Sales & Service in the amount of \$137,137.83. Also Bid Document No. 2003-20, the purchase of a flatbed truck for the Police Department. The lowest and best bidder is the Automotive Equipment Company in the amount of \$79,835.00. Your Honor, I would request that the bid tabulation and the award of contracts be made a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have no report tonight."

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There are a few pieces of legislation remaining on the Planning and Development Committee portion of the agenda. I'll cover that as we go along. First is Resolution No. 124-2003(PD), on for first reading only tonight. Bear in mind that legislation for Ordinances 126- 127- and 128-2003(PD), although shown on the agenda, are being pulled from the agenda because they are premature. They will come back in some form assuming that the resolutions I do read are approved. Let's go to Resolution No. 124-2003(PD), approving the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, Inc. Petition, Articles of Incorporation, and Plan of Services.

I assume we are dealing only with the Petition and Plan of Services tonight. You all know, I imagine at this point, that the Coventry Commercial District has successfully operated a SID and that this Council has assisted through the approval of some block grant funding the establishment of SID's

and working with the owners and merchants in the Cedar Fairmount and Lee Road Commercial Districts towards that end. Under the Ohio Revised Code, it is required that the owners of property exceeding, with regard to the properties - exceeding 60% of the front footage of the properties combined, approve a petition which then is submitted to City Council for its ratification or approval in regard to establishing a SID. And the only other comment I'll make with regard to the process for Resolutions 124 and 125 dealing with these two commercial districts is that it is in the best interest in my opinion of this city that we encourage SID's to be up and running, to be well-organized because that goes beyond a voluntary - an entirely voluntary merchants' association or property owners' association in this way because all of the properties share equitably first of all in paying an assessment and in determining how the proceeds are to be used. It is simply a fairer way to go about it and also of importance, in my opinion, is that this gives them - those commercial districts a real hand in partnering with the city to upgrade and maintain their districts and leads to a healthier community.

With that said, under Section 1 of this Resolution 124-2003(PD), when it comes to vote, not at this meeting, the Petition for the creation of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, copies of which are on file with the Clerk of Council and an Initial Plan of Services, attached as Exhibit "A" would be approved and the Plan of Services, I will not go through in detail, but sets out a set of goals, provides at this point for a budget for Cedar Fairmount SID of \$40,000 and provides that the assessment would be \$321.18 per each \$100,000 of market value. Resolution No. 124-2003(PD), has been presented on first reading only tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 124-2003(PD), first reading.

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "Thank you. Resolution No. 125-2003(PD), approving the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, Inc. Petition, Articles of Incorporation, and Plan of Services. The Cedar Lee SID actually extends well north and south of Cedar and in its Plan of Services amongst other information, of course, is a set of goals, a budget of \$90,000 and assessments proposed of \$409.05 per \$100,000 of market value. And of course, all of the factors in each Plan of Services are those that the owners themselves have determined to be appropriate and in each case we are advised that more than 60% that the owners of properties with a combined total of more than 60% of the total properties frontage in the designated and defined district have signed those petitions [*sic*]. Resolution No. 125-2003(PD) is also presented on first reading only tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 125-2003(PD), first reading.

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "Next, Ordinance No. 129-2003(PD) is also being presented on first reading only tonight. Amending Ordinance No. 29-2003 to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library Board of Trustees to permit the Library to construct and maintain two arches as well as a bridge / walkway over Lee Road to connect the Main Library building and the former YMCA building; and declaring an emergency. However, let me emphasize this is on for first reading only tonight. In brief, this Council previously voted to grant air rights for what at that point was the sole structure contemplated over the roadway, over the public right-of-way and now after a process that has involved the Architectural Board of Review as well as the library as an applicant and as always is the case in Cleveland Heights, a great deal of public comment. The plan that is now being presented and we anticipate will be on for final review within the month, calls for other arches in the district or I should say around the two buildings that are in question. Steve Wood, the library director has been kind enough to show a model and some plans that presents conceptually the appearance and approximate positions of these arches and to many of our committedly untrained eyes, they do appear to enhance the project. Ordinance No. 129-2003(PD) is presented on first reading only tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 129-2003(PD), first reading.

Vice Mayor Montlack concluded, "That completes my reading of legislation, just one comment. Happy to pass along, that this coming Wednesday on August 20th at 4:30 there will be a reception of sorts at the Sarah Benedict House around 3700 Prospect for a new program. It's actually two new programs. The Architects Design Assistance Program Team which as always has an acronym, in this case ADAPT whereby the architects' group of Cleveland, the AIA Cleveland Chapter, to assist fourteen older built-out suburbs in working up plans so that a new county program or a newly focused county program on storefront upgrades and assistance can move along. In doing so, the architects are helping to design very neighborhood-sensitive improvements in commercial districts. That goes along with the newly designed county program through the County Department of Development and that resulted from some dialogue with the economic development directors of the First Suburbs Consortium and the work of the First Suburbs Development Council. What all this verbiage means, is that our leaders in the county and their staff have gotten the message that there are real needs and real opportunities in the First Suburbs and joining with them the architects as another superb example of professionalism at its best have joined with our First Suburbs to make this program - this newly targeted program a success. Thanks all around to those folks and we're going to kick it off this week. Having said that, that completes the report of this committee."

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I'd like to read Resolution No. 130-2003(PSH), authorizing an agreement with the Illuminating Company for the purchase and installation of equipment for street lighting and traffic control signals for Severance Circle; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The owners of Severance Towne Center and the City are in the process of reconstructing Severance Circle (Ring Road), the access roads and the sidewalks. In conjunction with that project the City needs to purchase and install equipment for street lighting and traffic control signals. Such equipment is available only from the Illuminating Company. The prices quoted for such equipment and labor are reasonable. That reasonable amount is Seventy-two Thousand One Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars (\$72,139.00), for the purchase of the equipment as well as the installation. As you are all well-aware of, they're doing a lot of work on our Ring Road right now. It's going to be a wonderful, wonderful public thoroughfare once all the work is completed and we're looking forward to the road as well as the sidewalks that will allow people to hopefully walk around the Ring Road more safely. I'd like to present Resolution No. 130-2003(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 130-2003(PSH) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans continued, "Last week I had the pleasure of attending the plaque presentation to the homeowner whose home was designated as a landmark. It's a terrific home on Coventry and it's wonderful to see people who take such pride in restoring properties in that age group. Also, I'd like to commend our staff for helping to keep our city as safe as possible and I'm saying that because of our little blackout last Thursday. There were some people that really had some special needs and those needs were met and we're just really pleased that there were no disasters last week. That completes my report."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. There is no Administrative Services report but I do want to make a little personal comment and it does have to do with the fact that we just spent eight days in Ireland and what I noticed there is this great sense of well-being. It took me a few days to kind of figure out the difference that was striking me and I think what the difference was is that there is so much less that bombards your senses there. You don't feel intruded upon by things that aren't really happening, actually happening around you - so that you pay more attention to what's happening. People instead of watching - you know there's not a tv going in every room when you turn around. You don't see something else flashing at you. The cars don't have their radios blaring. The signs are little. It was on a very human scale. People are mingling in the streets, even young people are mingling in the streets. People are singing in pubs. There just seemed to be less passively sitting by and getting entertained and having things kind of come to you on a screen or through earphones. We just landed a few hours ago so I'm sort of getting acclimated and thinking about what we have to emulate and then I came back and heard about how the Cleveland Heights' police were like the only police that were out directing traffic during the blackout and I thought that's just the kind of thing that they would have done in Ireland instead of, you know, if the technology can't do it then you get a person to do it. I don't know, it just gave me something to think about as far as experiencing what is really going on around you. And that's all that I've got."

Mayor Kelley added, "Councilwoman Dietrich, you brought a smile to Mr. Malone's face when you were talking about Ireland."

Council Member Dietrich added, "I know I did - the rugby player."

Mayor Kelley added, "He does that a lot on March 17th."

Mr. Malone interjected, "I do my duty on March 17th, your Honor."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I don't have any legislation for this evening - a few comments. One, is a great big thank you to all the parks and recreation people. This was a wonderful season. The camps went great - our playgrounds have been terrific and best of all has been Cain Park. The shows - the big show and the little show and the theater programs and all of the entertainers that have come - I went to a lot of them. The different audiences that came. People came from away. They crossed the river - they came from the west side. They came from towns all over and really saw what Cleveland Heights is about. It's a beautiful venue and it was just a wonderful summer. So, thank you to the staff and a particular thank you to Susanna O'Neil who really has run a wonderful department. Thank you very much, that was great.

Actually, sadly, the swimming is coming to an end. Denison's last swimming day is Friday and Cumberland's is the following Friday also. It will be open over Labor Day weekend and then that's all folks. Back to school and the whole season will be over. So I'm sorry about that, it really means that things pickup and it does feel like the year starts when school starts. But it has really been a good season.

The other comment I wanted to make was about this little blackout - little - was what happened in the neighborhoods and that people barbequed together. People walked outside. People talked to each other. It was wonderful in a lot of ways. Not having water wasn't so cool and I was glad that the

electricity went on in a relatively short period of time, that it didn't go on for days [the blackout]. There was a wonderful thing that happened about people reconnecting with each other and feeling like they belonged to a community. If you haven't had a block party yet, do have one. This is the time. We have a couple more months of really reasonable weather for block parties. My neighborhood had a block party and it's great to see those people come out. That's all I have. Thank you very much."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There is no legislation from the Finance Committee tonight but I did have a couple of comments I did want to make. First, I want to report on our sale of our various purpose general obligation notes which were authorized on July 21st in the amount of approximately 2.6 million dollars. These were sold on August 5th at a coupon rate of 1.2% and that is obvious evidence of the City's strong financial standing and obviously the low interest rate environment out there, although I have to say that in the last month or so the interest rates have been creeping up, so that actually, is a very good result for the City and obviously will save us money over the long term. I also wanted to thank our city staff, especially our police department, our fire, our EMS for truly taking care of our residents last week in the blackout. It was reassuring to call city hall early on Friday morning and find everybody working and there were no delays. We certainly have a lot of dedicated people that work for the city and we appreciate it on Council.

Finally, Councilwoman Caplan mentioned back to school and I think we should mention to our residents that back to school in Cleveland Heights this year is a little bit earlier than we're used to. As far as I can remember Cleveland Heights has always gone back to school after Labor Day but this year school is going to begin starting next Tuesday, the 26th of August. Just be aware of that when you're driving around in the morning and the evening, especially as you see the school children, it's a little bit different from what we're used to but make sure you take special care as you're driving around next week and that concludes the report of the Finance Committee."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Hicks stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have several pieces of legislation this evening. First I have Ordinance No. 131-2003(MS), authorizing an agreement with Goodyear Tire & Rubber for the purchase of tires for City vehicles for the time period of July 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006 through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code Section 125.04 and this Council's Resolution No. 115-1988. The agreement shall be for the time period of again, July 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006 and shall provide for the purchase of tires on an as-needed basis, at a total cost not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year. All agreements hereunder shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Ordinance No. 131-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 131-2003(MS) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "Ordinance 132-2003(MS), authorizing an agreement with Michelin North America, Inc. for the purchase of tires for City vehicles for the time period of July 10,

2003 through September 30, 2006 through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 125.04 and this Council's Resolution No. 115-1988. The agreement shall be for the time period of July 10, 2003 through September 30, 2006, and shall provide for the purchase of tires on an as-needed basis, at a total cost not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year. All agreements hereunder shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Ordinance No. 132-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 132-2003(MS) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "I have Resolution No. 133-2003(MS), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Mackay Engineering & Survey Company for preliminary engineering services for the Edgehill Road sewer project; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into this agreement. The scope of the work shall be as set forth in the Engineer's proposal dated August 1, 2003, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of Council. Compensation for such services shall be at the Engineer's usual hourly rates, with total fees and expenses not to exceed the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). The agreement and any related documents shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Ordinance No. 133-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 133-2003(MS) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Hicks concluded, "Thank you, your Honor. I'm going to take the time to thank our municipal services department for doing an excellent job this summer. The beautification program went on even with the on and off rain and the hot days and just the strange summer that we had this year we still had people envious of Cleveland Heights.

I also have a couple comments about last week, the blackout. It was a strange time to first think it was the place that you were at, as when the lights went out and to find out it was the city and then state and then other states and Washington and New York and it was hard to not have it go through your mind that this was some type of terrorist attack and people began to call saying, let's pray and let's get together. It was sort of surreal and not knowing what was going to happen next, finding out that people had been trapped in elevators and that at the amusement park people were trapped upside down on some of the rides. For some of us, we had it relatively easy, not having to go home in that traffic from downtown and on the highway. Some people were acting lawless. There were reports of people recklessly driving on the highway. There was a guy doing wheelie's on the highway. Looting was going on in some places, but I haven't heard of anything in Cleveland Heights and was glad to hear of that but it was an interesting time, it was a scary time as Councilwoman Caplan said, it was a time when residents got together and this was one that we sort of shared together. It wasn't one we watched on the tv of planes going into buildings. We were actually sharing this together and the fear and the uncertainty was one that I think drew a lot of neighbors a lot closer. So I'm glad and I'm blessed that it wasn't a terrorist attack but it was just an interesting feeling that we don't have an opportunity to

experience again in the near future. Thank you.”

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, “We move to the Mayor’s Report and I want to make this a positive Mayor’s Report, so I, too, am glad about the city I live in and the things we’ve done this summer and the progress we’ve made at Cain Park and their baskets and brilliance our city looks and the projects that are going on that will be completed at Severance and Coventry and the great comments we’re getting about the way our city looks and the different cities that call us and say, ‘Where did you get the hanging baskets?’ or ‘What’s going on, on Coventry?’ I’m confident that our public schools and the school board will turn things around. I think this Council and I think I can speak for everybody on this Council, stands willing and ready to work with them to make things happen in a positive direction sooner than later. We met with the new superintendent tonight and we think good things will be happening very, very soon. I think I can speak for everybody on this Council to make things happen.

Lot of great things are happening in this town. We will have an election on the domestic registry and that will give us some answers, but as the Vice Mayor said two weeks ago, we’re going to wake up on November 5th and we’re going to do the business of this city and we’re going to make this city even better than it was on November 4th when we went to sleep. That’s what our responsibility is, so we can have these conversations but we’re going to go on and we’re going to move on as a city. This city is too important not to do things in that direction.

I’ve very happy in what happened when the power went out [in that] neighbors got together. I got to spend some quality time with my kids without the tv on, the computers or the video game. We pulled out the flashlights and listened to the radio. I never knew Mike Trivisano could do regular stuff on the radio and talk about reports. I learned that Nighttown Restaurant was open. I talked to Brendan Ring and found out that the Prince of Monaco was there with a party of 21. Great things happen in this town. People got together. Neighbors got to know each other once again. It was what I call an old fashion block party on almost every street. Our City Manager, Mr. Downey, our Police Chief and everybody did such a great job. Accolades to all these people - that worked hours and hours into the day and into the next day. But, still there are some questions that need to be answered and I think the City Manager and myself and this Council will take a lead role in finding out what could have been done different with the electric grid. Everybody is pointing fingers all over the country and First Energy this and that -. Some things may have been able to be done differently and I’m concerned about the water supply. Why the water supply wasn’t there? Maybe something could have been done differently because if this would have been a little bit longer some people might have suffered from dehydration or something else and I think the mayors and managers will probably get a little bit more involved. This is not a finger pointing or anything like that. That’s not what this is about. This is about how maybe we can manage it together as a city or as a county better - to find some answers, because lord knows we had minor inconveniences because people weren’t able to take showers. But if this would’ve gone on days and weeks or hours we might have had some dehydration issues. I want to thank all our store owners like Zagara’s and Tops and the drugstores that opened hours into the night and did things with the batteries and the water and the Gatorade and stuff like that. The community really tied together and worked as one. It’s really proud to be in Cleveland Heights and to do things. I’m sure there was a run of generators at all the different places but we learned from this. We’re going to go on. We’re a stronger community because of it, but rest assured your city employees did a great job, not just your police and fire, but you city manager and his staff, our community relations staff, our community center. Our pools were up and running the next day. It was a hot day, but we’re going to do a little bit more and I think the City Manager and I are going to get involved more with First Energy folks, our representative Mike Hrdy and maybe push a little bit with the City of Cleveland, Julius Ciaccia, to find out what could

have been done maybe to get this water on a better system and this is not a criticism but it's something to prepare for even though it hadn't happen for a lot of years. Maybe we can do better in the future because this would have been a catastrophe if it would have happened for days. It's not a criticism on anyone else.

This meeting is adjourned at 8:29 p.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 2, 2003 due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday. Thank you for coming."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc