



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:15 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

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

Council Member Caplan moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. Second by Vice Mayor Montlack.

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

Topic of discussion included personnel.

Executive Session concluded at 6:40 p.m. and adjourned into Committee of the Whole. Council Member Wilcox moved to go into another Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. Second by Council Member Caplan. Discussion was litigation, concluding at 7:11 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, Dietrich, Evans, Hicks, Kelley, Montlack, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

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

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, December 6, 2004 were signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have no formal report this evening."

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I need to notify Council that one notice has been received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control advising that application has been made by the following: Ireland, Inc., stock transfer, D2, D2X, D3, D3A and D6 permits, premises 2167-69 Lee Road, 1st floor and partial basement. Your Honor, I need to make this a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record and referred it to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council, the City Manager, and the Director of Law."

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 185-2004(PSH), amending subsection (a) of Section 1367.05, "Fees: Changes in Business Occupancy," to increase the fee for certificates of business occupancy and to charge a late fee for renewal applications not received by January 1; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, it is necessary to increase the fee for certificates of business occupancy for commercial uses to more adequately cover the administrative costs of conducting inspections and issuing said certificates, and to impose a late fee for renewal applications not received by January 1. Section 1 states that Subsection (a) of Section 1367.05, shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) Occupancy Certificate Fee. An application for a certificate of business occupancy shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of forty dollars (\$40.00), payable annually, for each occupant or tenant in a commercial building.

Any renewal application received after January 1 of any year shall incur a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month for each month or portion thereof that the application and/or fee is delinquent.

The occupancy fee was twenty dollars (\$20.00) so we're suggesting forty dollar (\$40.00). Section 2 is notice of passage and Section 3 declares this to be passed as an emergency measure. I'd like to submit Ordinance No. 185-2004(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 185-2004(PSH).

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Evans added, "There is no additional legislation this evening but I certainly

would like to wish our residents a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas. We're not going to meet until January 1st, so I'll also wish people a happy new year. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. I have just one brief item of business tonight which is to reappoint one of the members and the alternate to the Architectural Board of Review. The terms of Mark Fremont and Terry Saylor, who is the alternate, expire on December 31st and both have agreed to serve another term on the ABR. Mark has been on for seven years and Terry was just appointed in May of 04 to an unexpired term. So, I offer Mark Fremont and Terry Saylor for positions of member and alternate, respectively, to the Architectural Board of Review for three- year- terms beginning January 1, 2005 and extending to December 31, 2007."

Second by Council Member Hicks.

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

Nays: None

Reappointments passed

Council Member Dietrich concluded, "I just want to say how much we do appreciate all the people who serve as volunteers on our boards and commissions. It seems an appropriate time to say this after they've done one more year of hard work and since we won't be back until after January 1st, I hope everybody has a happy and safe and joyous holiday."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have two pieces of legislation. Both are on first reading tonight. The first is Ordinance No. 186-2004(CRR), authorizing and approving the presentation of entertainment and recreation programs in Cain Park and other locations for the year 2005, providing for use regulations, and establishing rates for the described activities and repealing Ordinance No. 2-2004. Be it ordained by this Council that: the City of Cleveland Heights shall sponsor and present in Cain Park and other locations, through the spring and summer of 2005 a program of entertainment and recreation activities in general accordance with plans therefor previously adopted by the City Manager and the Community Relations and Recreation Committee of Council.

There are lots of pages and I'm not going to read them all. We have thirteen pages of changes. All the changes are increases in prices. There are none that are decreases, but, for example: stage productions will be presented in Cain Park and admission charges for these productions will not exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). There is, of course, a discount of Three Dollars (\$3.00) for all Cleveland Heights residents who show their valid I.D. which will be applicable to all events in Cain Park which offer discounts. Musical concerts - special arrangements may be made for ticket prices not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), with the proceeds of the box office split per a contractual agreement approved by the Director of Law to accommodate costs of the concert. There are increases in the Cain Park School for the Arts so that camp for children who live in the community and have appropriate Recreation I.D. Cards will be \$516.00 for those without Recreation I.D. Cards it will be \$684.00. Those are some of the kinds of increases. The basketball program for grades K through 12 has been increased in a small way. We have slow-pitch girls softball league has been increased by a small amount. We have some new programs, actually, a spring soccer program is a new program. One needs to have an I.D. Card, for \$30.00 so the children can play. We have Pee Wee T-Ball, T-Ball, Coach-Pitch, Kid-Pitch and all of the prices have increased by about 10%. When it was \$40.00 to play, it is now \$44.00 [Pee Wee

T-Ball only]. So there are those kinds of increases: Men's Hockey, Women and/or Coed Hockey have all been increased, to not a large percentage, but just a little bit. There is an increase Before Camp for Child Care and for the Summer Day Camps and After Camp Child Care so that the prices have been increased and the point of increasing all of the different charges is so that we cover the costs of those programs. The City should not be in the position of subsidizing camp programs for the children as we are not looking to make a profit. Particularly, we should not be subsidizing it but the increased costs should cover the cost of the programs for the children. If you are interested in the costs, they range, depending on the program, is from about 10% to about 30%. That is Ordinance No. 186-2004(CRR) on first reading."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 186-2004(CRR), first reading.

Council Member Caplan continued, "I have Ordinance No. 187-2004(CRR), first reading, establishing use regulations and rates for admission and other services for Cumberland Swimming Pool, Denison Swimming Pool and the Cain Park Wading Pool for the year 2005; and repealing Ordinance No. 3-2004.

After having a huge snow storm this week, it's hard to think about swimming, but none the less we always know that spring and summer are going to come and we certainly count on that and so the charges, this one also, is admission to Cumberland Swimming Pool, Denison Swimming Pool and the Cain Park wading pool and the use of the pools and any related facilities and activities shall be limited to, of course, legal residents of the City of Cleveland Heights, who are authorized holders of a Recreation Identification Card or a guest of the holder of such card. Again, we have increased some of the rates. For group-rental, for the pools, it is One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) at Denison Pool for a basic period of one and one-half (1-1/2) hours, Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$240.00) at Cumberland Pool for a basic period of two (2) hours or any fractional part thereof. We've increased the price if you lose or mutilate your season pass or your family's season pass. It was \$5.00, it'll now be \$6.00 to have it replaced. A season's pass for swimming was \$19.00, it'll go up to \$23.00 and that's if you buy it before June 3rd. If you buy it after, you'll pay a little bit more for that. Some of the prices for children and adults has also increased. This, too, is on first reading. If you're interested in exactly how it affects you, it is available with the Clerk of Council. I offer Ordinance No. 187-2004(CRR) on first reading only."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 187-2004(CRR), first reading.

Council Member Caplan concluded, "The only other comment I want to make is we often think about all the programs in our recreational facilities for our children so I don't want our adults to forget that there's a whole list of programs for adults and some of them are just wonderful. We have everything from portrait drawing to adult tap dancing and line dancing and pilates, even a special program for prenatal pilates and then there is hatha yoga and early morning yoga. There are all kinds of special programs, so I hope that adults will think about their bodies also and do some of the things that might really be interesting for them and a little bit different and they're not huge time- commitments. Some of them are only five weeks or six weeks or seven weeks and the most seem to be ten weeks. Think about doing something for yourself in the coming year and I, too, wish everybody a happy holiday season and a healthy and sweet new year and maybe we can have a little peace in the new year."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There are two pieces of legislation from the Finance Committee tonight. These are our year-end budget resolutions and these are on second reading for passage tonight. They were read on first reading at the last meeting and have been on

file with the Clerk of Council since that time. I did want to, again, remind everyone that our efforts on the budget will continue in 2005 and we'll be diligent, following all the issues that the city faces right now and especially if the state decides that they're going to balance their budget by cutting funds to local government, which they have done in the past. We'll be looking at that, of course. And again, I want to thank the City Manager, the Finance Director and the city's staff for their hard work on the budget in 2004. Once again, thank the voters for their support of Issues 27 and 28.

With that, I have Ordinance No. 181-2004(F), Second Reading, for passage tonight. This is an Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 175-2003(F), as amended relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004; and declaring an emergency. Section 1 provides that certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 175-2004, all relating to appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City, for fiscal year 2004 are increased, decreased and/or transferred as set forth in this legislation. Again, I won't go through all of these. I will just state that the final number for the General Fund was \$41,036,404. Section 2 of this Ordinance provides that certain monies will be transferred from various funds as set forth in Section 2 and then Section 3 authorizes deficit balances to be corrected by the City Manager temporarily advancing from any unrestricted fund to any other fund, an amount sufficient to cover the deficit balance. I offer Ordinance No. 181-2004(F), Second Reading, for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 181-2004(F), Second Reading.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Wilcox continued, "Next I have Ordinance No. 182-2004(F), Second Reading, to make appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for the period of January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005; and declaring an emergency. Section 1 of this Ordinance provides for current expenses and expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. The General Fund number there is \$40,620,751. It also sets forth all of the other special funds of the City and the expenditures provided therein and also provides in Section 2 transfers from various funds and Section 3 also authorizes the City Manager to correct deficiencies by temporary advances from any unrestricted fund to any other fund. I offer Ordinance No. 182-2004(F), Second Reading, for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 182-2004(F), Second Reading.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Wilcox concluded, "I also want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and with that, that concludes the Finance Committee."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Hicks stated, "Thank you, your Honor. First, before I get carried away a happy and healthy holiday season, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a joyful new year.

I have Ordinance No. 188-2004(MS), authorizing an agreement with Valley Ford Truck Sales, Inc. for the purchase of a Ford F350 truck for the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department through

the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager is authorized to enter said agreement. The agreement shall provide for the purchase of a 2005 Ford F350 truck at a total cost, with necessary options, of Twenty-five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$25,499.50). All agreements hereunder shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Ordinance No. 188-2004(MS) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 188-2004(MS).

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "That's all the legislation that I have. I first want to again remind residents to mark your calendars for January 17th, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center, the Martin Luther King ceremony will be held. This year's theme is, 'The Self Cannot Be Self, Without Other Selves.' We would like to get participation from our community. We need adult essay participants. Please take the time over this holiday season to think about that theme and send something to City Hall.

My last comments will deal with an article that was sent to us. It was an article that was in the Plain Dealer and I read it several times and it wasn't until the third or fourth time that I read it that it actually clicked with me. I don't want to read the entire article, but I will read some of the article. It was written by Susan Vinella in the Plain Dealer and the title of it was, 'Mom Learns to Make Choices, Starting with Quitting Drinking'. The reason I'm reading is because we received a letter on this article from a resident of this community who did not want to share their identity with us, but I'll get to her letter or his letter (not quite sure if it was a her or a him) later but let me read some key points of this article. It says Charina Goldsby remembers when she could polish off a case of Colt 45 or slug down a half litter of Paul Masson wine in one sitting. It wasn't unusual for her circle. Everyone I knew was drinking, including my brothers and I always wanted to be like my brothers, but our habits took its toll on our children. Goldsby's youngest daughter, Kiara, would stay home from school to make sure her mom was okay. Some days she would run in a panic to a neighbor's house to call 911 when her drunken mother and Goldsby's drunken boyfriend would fight. Through it all Goldsby convinced herself everything would be okay. But in 2002, Cuyahoga County took custody of her children and she realized she needed help. She entered the Hitchcock Center for Women in Cleveland which offered a warm bed, caring counselors and a treatment program. The counselors at the Hitchcock Center have changed her thinking and her life. She has said, she has been sober for two years and has a part-time job as a nurse's aid. Her kids have been living with her at the Hitchcock Center during the past year and she's preparing to move the family to an apartment in Cleveland Heights soon. She hopes other women who are in this situation, that she was in two years ago, can find help and hope that she did at Hitchcock. She says, I want someone to read the newspaper and see it really does get better.

Now, I didn't read everything in that article, but I read the points that I thought were important. We did receive a letter from again, a resident. A resident says, while I am a great believer in giving people a second chance to improve their lives, I can't really say I'm happy to read that the poverty-stricken and dysfunctional family mentioned in the enclosed article will be moving to Cleveland Heights. If the family was moving to Tasmania and hadn't been the object of a story in the major daily there, which is really going to be something for the kids to live down, I'd give its members at least even odds that they could actually turn things around. Moving a mere four to five miles from their former problem isn't going to solve their problem and their move is going to increase the number of problems the

City of Cleveland Heights and the city school system will have. Concerned Cleveland Heights resident [signature]. I wasn't quite sure if the problem was that they were poverty stricken and dysfunctional. I didn't know if it would be okay whether they were rich and dysfunctional or poverty stricken and a functional family. I just wasn't quite sure what the problem was but in reading the article I could easily have transposed the names of her children for the names of myself and my sisters. Thirty years ago my father was an alcoholic and he hasn't taken a drink in thirty years when he made the choice to no longer drink. When he made the choice to get his life together that's when my family and I moved to Cleveland Heights. And so, I don't believe that these children see having their mother talked about in this article is something that they're ashamed of. It's something that they're proud of. They see a change. They witnessed that. They are going to a better place than they've ever been before and I just look at this and I laugh that someone can make that determination that this family will not make it just by reading that article. I hope that this family continues to live in this community. I wish the mother success. I wish the children success, because the reality is that they can be successful. That's all that I have."

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There are two pieces of legislation tonight. The first is Ordinance No. 154-2004(PD), Second Reading, amending the Zoning Map of the City of Cleveland Heights, as made a part of Part Eleven (Zoning Code) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, by changing the zoning of specified parcels in the Cedar-Lee business district to "S-2 Mixed Use" or "C-2X Multiple Use".

You may recall this is the last of a series of initiatives and legislation which included the creation of the "C-2X Multiple Use" designation and also proposed, here on second reading, the changes in the Zoning Map. Without reading all the parcels involved it includes changes along Lee Road from "C-2 Local Retail", an office use essentially - office and some other kind of uses to "S-2 Mixed Use", which is a little broader category which includes housing and also from "C-2 Local Retail" along another portion of Lee Road, the spine through Cleveland Heights to "C-2X Multiple Use", which for anybody who has paid attention during the past year combines some of the best in new urbanism principles and mixed-use development. Also, some other changes in certain other parcels from single-family to "C-2X Multiple Use", from "C-1 Office" to "S-2 Mixed Use" and from "A Single Family to "S-2 Mixed Use". In summary, what is proposed by this legislation, is that most of what is north of Cedar along Lee Road will become "S-2 Mixed Use". Most of what is south along Lee Road will become the "C-2X Multiple Use" and of course, that will include the area between Tullamore or around Tullamore Road and Meadowbrook that is going to be the site of a new development which we will get to in the second piece of legislation. The area that contains the two library parcels at the southern end of the Lee Road commercial district will become "S-2 Mixed Use". That is a brief summary of the changes that are proposed. With that, Ordinance No. 154- 2004(PD) is presented on Second Reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 154-2004(PD), Second Reading.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "The second legislation, like the first, also relates to a lot of very talented work by our Planning Department, our Law Department and others, except that this is closer to the beginning of a project. It is one of the first legislative steps in the development I referenced before.

Resolution No. 189-2004(PD), authorizing an agreement with Desman Associates for professional services for the Schematic Design Development phases of the Tullamore-Parking Deck Project; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. This provides, in Section 1, that the City Manager is authorized to enter into such an agreement for architectural and engineering services relating to this project. The services, are as stated, in Desman Associates' revised proposal dated December 6, 2004, with a copy on file with the Clerk of Council, and actually will be worked by a team that consists of the disciplines of engineering, architecture, specialization in parking garage construction and the like. The compensation for that will be at Desman Associates' usual hourly rates, with total fees and expenses not to exceed One Hundred Forty-three Thousand Dollars (\$143,000.00). The agreement will be in a form approved by the Director of Law. Again, congratulations to the staff, not only on putting this together and vetting a number of good perspective proposals but also on keeping this in the context of other agreements that are in the works and will be forthcoming. The grand plan, of course, will include a parking deck, as well as a mixed-use housing and retail project on the east side of Lee Road near Tullamore. Resolution No. 189-2004(PD) is presented on first reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 189-2004(PD).

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "As threatened at the last Council meeting, I would like to give you a brief report on some experiences at the National League of Cities annual conference that was held in early December, 2004 at Indianapolis. There are two kinds of issues I'd like to briefly review with you. One is speaking with a newly formed First Tier Suburbs' Council, a sub-group of the NLC that had its beginnings in 2002, but now is up to speed with a plan, an agenda and good organization. Also at the conference were mayors, council people and a city manager or two and not only from the Cleveland area, also being members of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, but also from the Columbus and Dayton areas. So in this sense it helped us cement the Ohio First Suburbs Consortium which is building membership here. Another factor is that this NLC First Tier Suburbs because it is in a national organization and because the council had over 80 persons from literally across the country from inner ring suburbs it now fulfills or begins to fulfill a need for having a national or federal agenda and to be able to speak with one voice in that area. That was an excellent experience and well-worth it. The next day I stayed over because I'd heard a lot about regional government, city/county government in Indianapolis and Marion County of which it is a part and I wanted to find out from the various horses' mouths how that was working. I heard for a good half day about that. There are some things that we could learn from this. It's actually been in effect since 1969/1970 in Indianapolis and the way it was passed, when the state government, the county government and the city government were all under one political party, in terms of legislative and administrative functions, it was passed with the compromises, that although there would be this regional government, there would be critical exemption in which communities retained for the central city their own police department, for the other cities in the county the sheriff's department, various volunteer fire departments in certain districts, all school systems were exempted, auditors office was exempted. It ended up creating, in regional government, some ninety taxing districts and eleven different school districts. This was the only way it could be passed. Over the years, in a very candid discussion we were told, except for a relatively healthy downtown, it looked in many cases - many ways better than our central city downtown looks, outside of that the wealth in businesses and residents have been exiting not simply Indianapolis but Marion County to the current winner counties (that's spelled *w-i-n-n-e-r*). Yet, Indianapolis, Marion County still provides the hub of services; art, entertainment and employment to these other counties but who do not pay taxes to UNIGOV. That ought to sound a little familiar to those who have been around Cuyahoga

County. As a result of that, UNIGOV is facing deficits, layoffs, budget crises. So the mayor is now campaigning to close the loopholes. I came away from that with a conclusion that regionalism can be an empty slogan unless all peoples and locales share in not only the benefits but the burdens and responsibilities of so-called regional government and it doesn't really matter so much what new mechanisms you put in place, what matters is whether things like the schools, all services, all taxes as in tax-based sharing, are really handled in an equitable manner. I learned a lot and it was good to be there.

Finally, I would like to join my other colleagues in wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays and a good new year. Thank you. That concludes my report."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "I just want to send a condolence to the mayor of Taylor Road, David Lipins on the loss of his sister. Certainly was a very sad time for all. I do want to announce that the diners are open on Lee Road, Chris and Jimmy's Diner are open, I believe from seven in the morning until ten o'clock at night, Monday through Sunday. I'm sure they'll take off Christmas and New Year's, at least I hope they will to rest up.

I do want to make an announcement that the boys and girls club, the variance that was granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals will be taken up by this City Council on Monday, January 3, 2005 at our 7:30 Council meeting. I do want to thank this City Council for another year of hard work and dedication. While we may disagree periodically on an issue or two or three or four or add a five, too, or have a four-three vote, it's been a great year. We really do work very well together. We do put the residents first and we've done a lot of great things together and will continue to do so. Your City Council works very hard for you. You can rest assure that happens here.

I also want to thank our staff, for yet another outstanding job and I want to single out this time especially the people that worked the last few days on snow removal, ice removal, because many times they would do a street and minutes later or half hour later the snow would come back either in a form of a drift or another snow, many of these men are trained to get ready for the holidays but I'm sure yesterday and probably the day before they were working 14/15/16 hour days, going home and grabbing a few hours sleep and getting right back out there. These are the same guys that pick up your leaves and respond to your sewer calls and some of your other things, but it's not easy when the weather gets the way it has been and I'm sure they'll be busy the next few days and into the holidays and they'll be there for you. So be patient, be kind, be generous. It's not easy covering this city. Some areas we have six inches of snow and other areas we may only have two, but bear with us, it's a hard city to plow. We get better every year and we learn things every year but it's a hard job.

I also want to single out our police and firemen who are doing yeomen's work, especially this time of year. Imagine the scene yesterday in East Cleveland when they had to fight a fire down there in frigid weather, trying to do that when the fire is teaming and trying to get into there with the water and some of the water almost freezes the second it comes out of the hose. It is not an easy task and this time of year we should remember those people.

Again, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, especially for our tax collection, right, Councilman Wilcox?"

Council Member Wilcox agreed.

Mayor Kelley continued, "I wish everybody again, a happy and healthy new year. Our next

meeting will be Monday, January 3, 2005. This meeting is adjourned at 8:12 p.m.”

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc