

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:28 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Council Member excused: Seren

Staff present: Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Wagner, Wong

Topics of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo. Councilwoman Yasinow moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:19. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roe. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Council Member excused: Seren

Staff present: Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Wagner, Wong

Topic of discussion included the appointment of a public official.

Executive Session concluded at 7:31 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:48 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Staff present: Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Wagner, Wong

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting for Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll please?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Dunbar, Roe, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Tom Raguz stated, "That's five present, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. I'd like to excuse Mr. Seren. He was sick earlier this weekend. Approval of the minutes of the regular Council meeting. I have two sets of corrections. I believe Ms. Roe handed her corrections in and Councilwoman Dunbar has some corrections for you as well. Please see her after the meeting. Thank you. At this time, as we do in all of our Council meetings, we'd like to welcome any residents or interested parties who would like to communicate with City Council to step up to the podium, give us your name, address and try to control your presentation to three minutes or less. Is there anyone who'd like to speak to Council this evening? Yes ma'am."

Cheyenne Toole stated, "Good evening, Council. My name is Cheyenne Toole. I live at 950 Nelaview Road, Cleveland Heights. I'm here because of an issue that has arisen in the neighborhood and it had to do with a problem with my refrigerator went out and put the meat out on a deck and a neighbor calls it possible dead bodies, blah, blah, blah, blah, but it's caused a lot of hate within the neighbors that are on the street. And every time I go over there to clean up, I get 942 which is Kenny Brew. He's always got to be tinkering and looking over there watching me. Then there's 940; Kyle Benjamin. He's got his motion light on me and then I got to deal with 947; S. Cartwright. His first name is Sherman, but I don't think it's him. It's either his grandson, his nephew or some relative, but the fellow comes out, he's looking over at me and listening and I don't care for this silliness. I mean, if they don't like me, they need to move because I'm going to stay planted. It's bad enough I deal with 946 which is Section 8, 952 which is Section 8 and I think 955 is Section 8 - the silliness of them - sending the kids out to watch everything I'm doing and reporting and they call Housing and tell all kinds of outrageous lies on me. It's bad enough they walk in the neighborhood telling people I'm a thief and I steal, and I don't appreciate that. That's a heinous lie and they're full of iniquity and then behind this, they had their friends up and down the street blasting this loud outrageous music and I have to call the police to tell him can they put some attention on the street. I'm over there cleaning up so that I can get things fixed from where the door was busted in over the lie that I found out came from Kenny Brew, the female, about the dead body. It was me. It wasn't a dead body. Terrorize my two kids, and it's hard for me to get them to come do anything. I'm doing most of the work by myself, but I finally begin to get other help to get things straight now so that that door can get fixed and other little thing, but I don't appreciate this nastiness from these neighbors. You know, like I said again, it started with 942, 940, 946, 952, 947 and 955. It was bad enough when I first moved in I had 960. The woman thought I was a kid. I'm in my seventies. I ain't no kid, but I'm just tired."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I hear that as a compliment. You know that if somebody thinks you're a kid and you're 70, that's not such a bad thing."

Cheyenne Toole stated, "Yeah, but it's still... it's aggravating so what I do - I work in the morning. I go back to work and when his dark I can't be there. I go to the gym and I practice because I'm still in training for the Senior Olympics again. I'm going back and swimming, but the aggravation with these neighbors is when I'm sick of."

Mayor Stephens stated, "How can we help you, ma'am?"

Cheyenne Toole stated, "Just tell them to mind their own business. If they can come over and help, stay away because I'm getting ready to put the fence up and the sign is going to say, 'Good neighbors make them mind their own business... Good fences make neighbors mind their own business.'

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, ma'am."

Cheyenne Toole stated, "So that's what I come in here to tell you because I was just tired of it."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay."

Cheyenne Tool stated, "And everybody gets tired of something. Thank you so much."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who'd like to share something with Council? Yes ma'am, in the back row."

Jill Tatum stated, "Good evening. My name is Jill Tatum. I live at 1315 Cleveland Heights Boulevard and I would like to express my opposition to the proposed rezoning of two homes on Vandemar in order to construct a large gas station and convenience store. I think there are characteristics of this location that warrant a higher value redevelopment and I will very briefly just mention a few. I think there are probably others. First, this location is one block away from the eastern border of our city on a major thoroughfare; excuse me, which makes it a kind of first impressions gateway. Secondly, on two sides of this location are lovely tree lined, walkable, bike-able neighborhoods. The quality of life of which is not unlikely to be enhanced by this development. Third, it's on a public transportation route which makes it excessive will not just to cars, but also to people who can't drive, people who don't want to drive. Fourth, it's 3/10 of a mile from Severance Center, which is an area that our community is coming to a very strong consensus represents a once in a lifetime redevelopment opportunity. In fact, once in multiple lifetime redevelopment opportunity and last, it's an area that's very close to the attractions of Little Italy and University Circle. I think that whatever redevelopment happens at this location is going to have both a practical and a symbolic impact on our city for decades and putting a large gas station and convenience store here sends a message that Cleveland Heights is a place you drop into to fill your gas station and your cup holder... your gas tank and your cup holder and you hurry through to get to places that are more inviting, more livable and more appealing. I don't think that's the kind of message the City wants to send. I don't pretend to know what a high-value redevelopment of this location would be. What I do know is that Cleveland Heights has a lot of really smart creative people who are devoted to the best interests of this City. I'm looking at some of them and I'm sitting with others. I think our challenge is first to believe we deserve better and secondly, with that belief, to harness all of that dedicated talent as a community to make something better happen. Thank you for your attention."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you ma'am."

C. J. Nash stated, "C.J. Nash."

Mayor Stephens stated, "No, that doesn't mean you don't have to tell me your name, but you now I have a name to go with your face."

C.J. Wright stated, "I'll be sure remember to tell you my address this time. Hi. I am C.J. Nash and I'm at 1416 Vandemar Street. Yes, I am a Cleveland Heights resident and I agree with everything that she said so far and of course remember what I said both last time so you understand how I feel about it. All I want to do today is go over a couple things that are zoning code and in the Master Plan that support the fact or the opinion that we have - that tearing down two beautiful vintage homes that are in good condition, not old demolished ones, will not be an asset to our neighborhood and I don't think it'll be an asset to Cleveland Heights either. The whole of the... introduction to the whole of the Cleveland Heights

Zoning Code 1101.02 propose the City of Cleveland Heights is hereby zoned to promote the public health, safety, prosperity and general welfare including the promotion of home ownership, the protection of residential sections of the City, the protection of property values.

1165.06 – gotta keep track of which pages I've got here. If I read this whole thing we'd be here forever. From the current Master Plan of which there's a meeting coming up and this is on the website - 'vibrant neighborhoods assess Cleveland Heights will be the City of strong safe and vibrant neighborhoods composed of a variety of beautiful homes and buildings, well maintained yards and green spaces, historic districts, active neighborhood associations and revitalized blocks. Revitalize and rehabilitate neighborhoods affected by blight, abandonment, foreclosure, rental conversions and demolished but demolitions continue to promote and support neighborhood identities to enhance the sense of place and build pride among residents.'

From the 2011 plan: One of the goals is the City shall redevelop vacant parcels of buildings with outmoded uses such as gas stations, so we don't need three outmoded gas stations which, of course, our opinion, is that large one. That's what it would make those. Evaluated to... development sites should always be evaluated to assess their impact on and compatibility with adjacent uses and the best land use strategies. Another goal in that same planning for new development and investment consistent with the existing character of the community. The City is to encourage development that complements existing character of both our residential neighborhoods and commercial districts. Development sites have been located in careful attention not to damage the surrounding neighborhoods. So I just want to read that to you instead of just giving my opinion this time to start giving you guys..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Our own opinions back."

C.J. Wright stated, "Would I do that to you? Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who'd like to share comments or thoughts with us this evening?"

Sarah Lee stated, "Hi. My name's Sarah Lee. I live at 1366 Vandemar. I've lived there my whole life. I live there with my husband and my two twin sons. We bought the house from my parents in 2008 and I just want to talk. Well, first thank you for hearing us and I just wanted to say, you know, a little bit about our neighborhood and our neighbors. Scott, my husband, and I - we really love our home we've poured our souls and most of our income into making it beautiful and we haven't left a surface, corner or height untouched. We also love our neighbors and our community. We call our neighbors friends. They come over on holidays and baby showers and when your kitchen catches on fire and they stay with you till 2:00 in the morning and clean it. They send you baby gifts and say hello on the street and, you know, we just... we know we live off Mayfield. We know that there's going to be business there, but we want it to be business that enhances our community and enhances our neighborhood and keeps us, you know, as a unit instead of a gas station. So, thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else? On behalf of myself and my colleagues I would like to say something to the neighbors that are on Vandemar and around it. We really

appreciate the fact that you have come to talk to us and have been well mannered and thoughtful and laughed at my jokes. Your kindness to us as elected officials - not once have any of you raised your voices to us or been rude to us. We truly appreciate that and because of that I believe we are committed to listening to you and to trying to work something out that is in the best interests of Cleveland Heights, but we must follow a fair and legal process and so since my Law Director is my unofficial coach now, I have to follow proper procedures and be thoughtful of all the things that a mayor and all the things that Council has to consider. We have to collectively do that. So, as we work through this process and have a hearing, I'd like to announce at this time that we will have a public hearing on the Circle K request for redevelopment of the site on Mayfield on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. here at 40 Severance Circle in Council Chambers. So, there's an official time and date for this meeting now and if you would prepare yourself with the same thoughtfulness that you have done in these two preceding meetings, we would really be appreciative of that and if there are no further questions this evening or comments that folks would like to make, we'll move on with our standard meeting. No other questions or comments? Thank you. Ms. Briley, do you have a City Manager's report for us this evening?"

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes, Your Honor. I would like to request permission to advertise for bid for the 2016 Citywide Line Striping Program and I would like to make that a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilwoman Yasinow, this is in Municipal Services Committee. Would you like to make a motion please?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Yes, Your Honor. I would like to move to grant permission to City Manager Tanisha Briley to advertise to go to bid for the 2016 Citywide Line Striping Program."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Would you call the roll please?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Roe, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar

 Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "That's five ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Permission has been granted."

Permission Granted

Tanisha Briley stated, "One additional request, Your Honor. I would like to request permission to advertise for bids for the Cedar Lee Streetscape Construction and I would like to make that a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This is also a Municipal Services request."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Your Honor, I hereby move to grant City Manager Tanisha Briley permission to advertise to go to bid for the Cedar Lee Streetscape Project."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Do I hear a second?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Would you do the roll please?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Stein, Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe

 Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "That's five ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. It appears you have the permission to go to bid and we are so excited. We want to see that street redone. Anything else?"

Permission Granted

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. That concludes my report."

Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there report from the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council?"

Tom Raguz stated, "No report tonight. Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Mr. Raguz. Ms. Yasinow, Council Services Committee... Municipal Services Committee."

Report of the Municipal Services Committee

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Yes, I one resolution for consideration this evening, Your Honor. It is Resolution Number 6-2016. This is a resolution authorizing the Ohio Department of Transportation to complete a project improving pedestrian and bicycle access for school children within the City of Cleveland Heights. Whereas the State of Ohio has identified the need for the following described project to quote, 'Improve the pedestrian and bicycle access for school children within the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District in the City of Cleveland Heights,' and Council

has determined that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to participate in this project. I hereby recommend that the City give consent to the Director of Transportation for the State of Ohio to completely the described project and for the City to cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the project pursuant to all applicable rules and regulations. I recommend Resolution Number 6-2016 for passage this evening.”

Roll Call: Ayes: Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe, Stein

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “That's five ayes, Your Honor.”

Resolution Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. I believe this is passed. Ms. Yasinow, is there... are there any comments that you'd like to make this evening on a report?”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Yes, I would just like to echo your earlier statement and thank all of the residents from Vandemar. For those who would be impacted by any changes that were to occur on Mayfield, to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come here, not once, but twice so far and that I am looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming public hearing on this. At our meeting two weeks ago, on this we received nearly one hour of comments from residents expressing their concern and their commitment to the community and to show their engagement. I thank you for that and I thank you in advance for what I'm certain will be no less an amount of time on the third. So thank you very much.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you, Councilwoman. Public Safety and Health Committee.”

Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “Thank you, Your Honor. This committee does not have to report tonight.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Next we got to Planning and Development Committee of Council. Councilwoman Dunbar.”

Report of the Planning and Development Committee

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “I don't have a report either. However, I would like to again ask people to be aware of our meeting on February 23, Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center for the first public input meeting on the Cleveland Heights Master Plan which is being developed by a team of Cleveland Heights residents in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. This will focus on two sections of the plan. The first is baseline measures of current conditions and the second is a vision section and so I encourage people to look at the documents that are available for this which are on the website and come to that meeting and come prepared to make some comments.

The other thing that I would just like to call to your attention is that tomorrow is the day when our schools get their ratings from the state and this is not always a happy occasion for our schools. There are going to be rallies and each of the schools by parents and residents expressing - the theme is 'More than a Score' and the -it's the view of many people that the tasks that are currently being administered to the school kids don't really reflect what is going on in the schools and are biased in various ways and so I'm going to go to the one at Fairfax and let them know I appreciate what they're doing and I encourage others to consider that. It's online and if you want to look at up, it's under chuhnet.coalition. So that's it."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Councilman Dunbar. Next is Administrative Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe."

Report of the Administrative Services Committee

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Yes, I have a recommendation for an appointment, Your Honor. I move..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Go ahead."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I move that we appoint Gail Larson to the Citizens Advisory Committee."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Could I have a...What's the term?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "The end of this year."

Tanisha Briley stated, "It's one year."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The one year term?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "It ends at the end of this year. 12/31."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "December 31."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "12/31."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Do I have a second?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll please?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe, Stein, Stephens

 Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "Five ayes, Your Honor."

Appointment Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, "It appears that Ms. Larson has been appointed to Citizens Advisory Committee and we will inform her of that within the week."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us this evening, Ms. Roe?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I will be at Oxford School in the morning."

Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee

Mayor Stephens stated, "That's two schools covered. Anything else? Then we move to Community Relations and Recreation Committee and that's where I have something to say, but there's no report from that either. So, next we move to Finance Committee."

Report of the Finance Committee

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Again, this committee does not have a report tonight."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And we move through this rather quickly. You know, my favorite meeting is an hour or less, so we're about to have one of my favorite meetings."

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stephens stated, "Mayor's Report. You know, tough times come to people sometimes whether they want them or not and you work hard and do the very best you can, but budgets get tight and things get harder to do. As a municipality, we found those tough times up on us last year and we asked the citizens of this community to give us a little bit more of their incomes to help pay the bills of the City, and this community was extremely generous in sharing their votes with us and providing us with the ability to balance our budget into the future and we were blessed. The year-end report which is not audited as my Finance Director has reminded me shows that we were able to reserve funds so that we can look better for ratings companies, which means that it will cost us less to borrow money when we need to borrow it, that we can pay all our bills on a timely basis which we do, and that we have enough to take care of the... some of our future needs and for that we are most appreciative to the residents of this community because they help us take care of business on a regular basis. So, we're financially healthy starting out a new year because of each of you and your commitment to this community and for that I want to say thank you this evening. As I end today's City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 - and our next Council meeting is Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Thank you very much for your attendance this evening and there will be members of Council present after this meeting to answer any miscellaneous questions their residents have. Thank you and have a good evening."

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw