

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:27 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

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

Topics of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo. The Committee of the Whole concluded at 7:05 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, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Spencer, Wagner, Wong

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting Monday, March 7, 2016. This is our regular Council meeting. Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll please?"

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

Tom Raguz stated, "All present, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Well, we have minutes from our last regular Council meeting. I understand that we have some corrections. Councilwoman Roe, Council Dunbar, have you provided those to the Clerk? Okay. They have submissions for you. At this time, as is our tradition, we have personal communication from citizens. So, if you would approach the microphone, provide us with your name and address, we would like to hear from people in the audience this evening. If you just raise your hand and let me know you're interested in speaking to us. Mr. Pesta."

"Good evening members of City Council. My name is Alex Pesta. I reside at 14590 Superior Road in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The reason why I'm here tonight is to ask City to continue a very important process that you have started and that is a process with one of my neighboring properties located at 14586 Superior Road. In November, this Council declared that property a nuisance. It has been vacant for an excess of 10 years. It has become a home to skunks, groundhogs, raccoons living in the third floor. Recently, it has attracted some vandalization and burglarization of the property. The current owners are unreachable despite several attempts for me to reach out and ask them what their concerns are for the property or I should say my concerns for the property; what their plans for the property are and quite frankly, they are terrible neighbors. They are not there. I haven't seen them in 8 years and it has become a source of blight, a target for criminal activity in my neighborhood. In my opinion, it's a terrible front door to one of the community's greatest assets, Cain Park. It is a brick structure so it doesn't look that

bad from the road. However, my view is a collapsing porch, a roof that has been open, blown back from, I believe, Hurricane Sandy to put a time frame on it. I actually checked with the Auditor's web site today and GIS data imagery that goes back to 2013 that shows that that roof has been open, so that's the better part of 2 ½ or 3 years, so every time it rains outside, it rains inside in that home.

I know that the Housing Director Rick Wagner has been inside that house. He's inspected it. It is, per the report, full of mold and uninhabitable. It has become a health concern for me, my family. I have 3 young children and my wife that are there. So, I would ask that you continue the process of the declaration of nuisance. The fact that the owners seem to be doing very little if anything to abate such nuisance. In the last 2 months, they have replaced one sidewalk panel that was cracked, that was broken. My estimation is that is a \$200-\$300 repair that they have invested in their property over the last 9 years which just, as a Cleveland Heights resident, we know that that's not what it takes to maintain and become a good neighbor and maintain that neighborhood aspect that we all aspire to be. So, I would ask that you would pursue and continue and eventually demolish that house or at least put the pressure on the neighbors in order to bring that up to a standard of living that we all want to see from our community. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thanks, Alex."

Mayor Stephens stated, "At this point in time, I'll ask the City Manager to have the Housing Director. My understanding is that they had asked for a continuance so they could have time to repair the house. Mr. Pesta is telling us that they've made no efforts to repair this house since we declared them a nuisance even though they asked for a time delay, so could we put pressure on the process please?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes, Council, we can provide you with an update. I believe Director Wagner is in the back of the room, but I believe it is in the court now. Is the process in the court now?"

Rick Wagner stated, "Yes, we did file an appeal. We have the bid for the demolition. The owners have filed an appeal and they have to come right away with financial plans and a plan. They have a short window to accomplish that or we're going to proceed."

Mayor Stephens stated, "What's their window? Is it April 1 for example?"

Rick Wagner stated, "April 1."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, so if on April 1 they have not provided the City with financial support to give us evidence that they can rehab it, it needs to go down?"

Rick Wagner stated, "Yes. We actually started the process. We did the clean-out of the house and we were halfway through when the appeal was filed."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to speak to Council this evening? Yes, sir."

Stated, "Good evening, Lady Mayor and the members of Council and ladies and gentlemen in the audience. I used to live in Cleveland Heights and I moved out 2011 and I moved out to Lyndhurst."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Sir, could you tell us your name and address please?"

Ali Bazargan stated, "My name is Ali Bazargan and I live at 5195 Hickory Drive in Lyndhurst. Since 2014, I purchase 3 properties in Cleveland Heights and all of them, the copper pipe was gone. Stolen. The reason I'm here tonight to address the rate of the water and sewer in this City. I used to pay half as much as back in 2010. I used to live here for 15 years, but the water and sewer is kind of very high and I'm losing my tenant and I have a lady moved in 1079 Elbon back in April. She moved out July and I evicted in July, but she stayed til the end of August and I end up paying \$560 for the water and sewer in order to restore the water back again. Another one is 935 Beverly. The family moved out, the family of 3, man and wife and 1 child and end up at the end of they moved out, I was...that house was over \$1,000 water and sewer. Then I have another new tenant at 935 Beverly. Every month, he has to pay \$150 for the water and sewer. He's paying \$900 per month for rent and he's always behind. Another one is 3988 Ardmore. The man moved in May 2014, moved, evicted July of 2014 and stayed until the end of August. Judgment was about \$1,000. He took off with everything. I can't even collect my money and the other 1079 Elbon end up judgment over \$2,000. I have to pay it. The reason I'm here tonight, see if I can get help from the Lady Mayor and City Council in order to at least lower this rate of water and sewer that everybody would be comfortable to pay especially those as a landlord like mine to be comfortable and then, you know, they take off with the money and I end up paying the water and sewer myself."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you for your comments this evening, however, we don't negotiate water rates at this, at our meetings. If you have documentation you would like to share with our Water Commissioner and/or our City Manager, we welcome you to do that. Ms. Briley, do you have a card you can give him or a methodology for him to contact you or our Vice City Manager? I think that's the most appropriate way. You see the young lady beside the door? She'll give you contact information so you can follow up. You like that?"

Ali Bazargan stated, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else that would like to speak to Council this evening?"

Edgar Mitchell stated, "Good evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening."

Edgar Mitchell stated, "Good evening to Council and everyone else that's here, fellow Heights members and everyone. What I'm about to say – I didn't really want to come and do this..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Excuse me, sir? Could you give us your name and address?"

Edgar Mitchell stated, "Oh, I'm sorry for that. I'm a little bit upset. My name is Edgar Mitchell and I lived in Cleveland Heights since 1979. I live at 2025 Goodnor Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio and my kids have all went through the Heights High Schools. I have grandkids in Heights High Schools school system. Last Saturday, the 27th of October, approximately about 10:00 in the evening. Forgive me. My voice is I'm losing my voice with different stuff, but anyway, what I came to say is I respect Cleveland Heights police officers and they do a good job taking care of us and without the police officers, we wouldn't have protection or safe city as we do, but what happened to me. I have had a headlight that might be missing, a tail light missing. I've been stopped by Cleveland Heights police and they have always gave you a warning, you know, fix this and you have 72 hours to come and show that you had this taken care of. The reason I came to mention this to Council because I'm gonna have to go to court on the 16th of March on a Wednesday morning at 8:30. I felt real upset 'cuz I was coming down as I said, October 27th on a Saturday evening, coming down Taylor, no bad weather, nothing like that and I have a Jeep Liberty. My fog lights was on. I didn't know that my headlights weren't on. The officer proceeded to stop me and he said, 'You know what I stopped you for?' and I say, 'No.' I said, 'Was I speeding?' He said, 'No, you weren't speeding,' he said, 'but your headlights are not on.' I said, 'Okay, I didn't know that.' He said, 'Your fog lights are on.' So I turned the headlights on. He saw that they were on. He said, 'Okay, do you have your ID and insurance?' Whatever. So, I gave him the proper identification. He proceeded to get back in his car. About a minute later, he came back, he wrote me a ticket. I said, 'Are you giving me a ticket for this?' He said, "Yes." And I couldn't believe that he gave me a ticket. I could see if I had a missing light. They normally give you a warning. You go and you have that fixed and you go to bring it back to the police station and you show them you got it fixed and it's no problem, but he actually gave me a ticket that worth a cost of about \$145 because I didn't have my headlights on and I just can't believe that, so I said I was going to come to Council and I was going to make you aware that – make sure you got your headlights on and stuff like that because I don't think the average officer would do that. It never happened to me before in 37/38 years of living in Cleveland Heights. I've been stopped 3 or 4 times because maybe I had a tail light burned out, a headlight burned out. They always tell me, 'Mr. Mitchell, you know as long as your license and everything is straight,' they'll tell you, 'Well, sir, have this repaired. You have 72 hours to repair it and come and let us know you did it. I can't believe that they gave me a actual ticket for \$148 and I call and they tell me I have to come to court on it. That's why, other than that, I enjoy living in Cleveland Heights. As I said, I've been living here since 1979, raised my family here and I'm trying to be a law abiding citizen here. I'm not perfect. I don't think any of us are, but, you know, I commend Cleveland Heights Fire Department, Police Department and City Council for everything they have done, but that was just one thing that just rubbed me the wrong way, so I had to make you guys know that. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, sir. Tanisha? Is there anyone else that would like to speak to Council? Ms. Miller."

Susan Miller stated, "My name is Susan Miller. I live at 3165 Berkshire Road and I just wanted to ask if perhaps the City might consider a communication strategy that would inform us about the

infrastructure work that suddenly pops up. There's been conversation, a lot of questions of the Facebook page, various neighborhood Facebook pages and NextDoor web site. What happened to the trees on Lee Road from Euclid, wherever they happened to intersect that section, that alley of sycamores there by Boulevard School? Infrastructure is really important, whether you live right next to it or not. If all of the sudden you're traveling through and you notice something has changed about your city and, now I know that if the sycamores have been cut in the middle of summer, it would have been more... people would have recognized it that day. You know, they would have seen it immediately and then because the tree canopy would be gone, but because I come to the committee meetings, I was able to say, 'Well, that's a Dominion project,' but then it would be helpful for us to know – where are the gas lines being replaced? What streets are going to lose their trees? What's the plan and who is paying for when the trees come back? What kind of trees are they going to be? Are we going to have our canopy return? With the sewer project that's going on Fairmount this summer, what, you know, is there an update about that so that we can readily go to the web site for infrastructure?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. It doesn't sound like a bad idea. Let us talk about it and see what we can do."

Susan Miller stated, "Thank you."

Mary Dunbar stated, "Could I add something? There is going to be a meeting I believe on March 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center where Dominion Gas is going to provide an update on their plans. It's March 22, 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Dominion Gas is going to provide an update on their next phases of operations."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Is there anyone else that would like to speak with us this evening? If not, I will close the public section of our meeting and input from our citizens at this time. The report of the City Manager please."

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. I have one item to report. I need to notify Council that the bids were received for the 2016 Traffic Signal Reconstruction Project. The lowest and best bid was submitted by Greenwich Electric in the amount of \$59,421.35 and I would like to make this a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. I'd like to refer this to the Municipal Services Committee, Councilwoman Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor. I hereby make a motion for the City Manager to be able to accept for the 2016 Traffic Signal Reconstruction the lowest and best bid that was submitted by Greenwich Electric in the amount of \$59,421.35."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Do I have a second for this motion?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Councilwoman Dunbar. Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll please?"

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

Nays: None

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. The Director of Finance/Clerk of Council, do you have a report for us this evening?"

Tom Raguz stated, "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: Rudys Pub LLC, 2189-2191 Lee Road and Patio, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118, Transfer, D5, D6 permits from Kerry LLC, DBA Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, 2189-2191 Lee Road and Patio, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. I need to make this a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, "This item will be referred to the... referred to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council. Councilman Seren, do you have anything on this?"

Councilman Seren stated, "No, I do not."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, we do not have to take action, do we? I will just read it into the record then. Is there one other matter?"

Tom Raguz stated, "Yes, I also have one more."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay."

Tom Raguz stated, "I need to notify Council that a resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals has been received pertaining to variances in the Zoning Code and is requested by the following: BZA Cal. No. 3391: Richard Alt, 2710 Fairmount Boulevard, to permit a side yard setback of 3-feet 2-inches for an attached garage addition and variance from the Enclosed Parking Space Requirement regulations to permit garage doors to be visible on the street elevation. Your Honor, I need to make this a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. That will be referred to the Planning and Development Committee of Council and when we get to their item under committee reports, it will be dealt with. At

this time, I'd like to deviate from the official record. Over the last 2 months, we have received a submission approximately 2 months ago from Circle K to have 2 parcels of land which had residential structures located on them rezoned. We had a presentation from the Circle K folks after review of their application as well as from the neighbors in the area and after review of that, I have made a decision on how we should handle it. There was the public hearing and now Council has come to a decision. I'd like to talk with the members of Council publicly for a moment in front of you and then we will have... go on the record with our decision. We reviewed the proposed investment by Circle K, the number of jobs they would create and we reviewed the zoning code section that they requested and amendment for and we listened as you know at least twice to members of the community and their concerns and, at this time, I believe that this Council would prefer not to take action on this. Are there any comments from my colleagues? Councilman Stein."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "I just think that the request to begin with was questionable – to rezone residential properties that are successful to be used for a commercial project such as a gas station. That's questionable to begin with, but the residents coming out made it, in my opinion, very clear what the decision should be. The residents don't want it and that, at the end of the day, it's just a gas station, so I don't want it either."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Councilman Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "I just wanted to say that when this proposal initially came to us, my immediate instinct was against it, but I decided I would keep an open mind because I like to do that and so I watched the presentation online. I wasn't able to be here for the public hearing, but I watched the presentation online with the... at least open to the possibility that I could be convinced otherwise, but nothing that was said changed my original position. I think that Cleveland Heights deserves better and more strategic development than that and so I'm looking forward to the direction forward from here."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilwoman Roe and then Councilwoman Yasinow."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I agree with what I've heard so far. I think in summary, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Councilwoman Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I agree wholeheartedly with my colleagues against the rezoning. I just want to say that I'm frankly very grateful for the public hearing that we had last Thursday on both sides of the issue. For those who represent the land owner and Circle K, I appreciate the professionalism and the respect shown and I understand the difficulty of this parcel of land and what can come of it. We're dealing with an old building that does not, that was created before the ADA. It does not appear feasible currently to bring it into compliance with the ADA and there's asbestos and I appreciate the sincere offer to develop this property, but I believe that the residents made their desires and their opinions loud and clear on this issue about the rezoning. I can understand and appreciate and agree with the concerns of residents who came together, who bought a house on a quiet street, who did not buy a house near a gas station and convenience store and did not want to suddenly have one pop up

literally across the street from some people and I just personally wanted to say that frankly I found last Thursday's public hearing the best public hearing that I've seen in these 2 years of office. I believe that it has...this issue has brought together a part of the community in a way that it hasn't come together before. I'm frankly looking forward to the first block party this summer. Above all, it was really an organic grass roots organization of, by and for the residents. It was marked by its civility, its professionalism and its decency, something that I'm afraid we all too often find lacking in our world and so, on both sides, I just want to say thank you and I agree with the Council's decision this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "This evening as Mayor of Cleveland Heights, I will accept a motion from my colleagues, but the decision of the Mayor is to not move forward with the application and take no action. Is there a motion to support this action by your Mayor?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "So moved."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I would...I would like to say..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Hang on just a minute. Our Planning Chair would like to have a say."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "My colleagues have all spoken eloquently about this, so I will simply make a motion to decline the petition to rezone parcel numbers 683-06-053 and 683-06-054 from A single family to C2 local retail."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Miss Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Would we like to do this by roll call or voice affirmation?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Voice."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. All in favor of this, say aye please."

All Council members stated, "Aye."

Mayor Stephens stated, "This motion passes. Your Mayor will send a letter to Circle K and its representatives indicating with the signatures of members of Council due to their voice vote that we will be declining this application and not moving forward on it. I want to thank those of you who participated in the community and gave us your faith and worked through this process. We had to do this fairly and hear both sides of the issues that did present a good case, but at this time for this location, this is the best decision we believe based on our zoning code and our land uses. Thank those of you who came out to hear us tonight and we will move forward with the balance of our Council

meeting. Next we have a presentation from our Fire Department. It's their 2015 Report. Chief Freeman, you have the microphone."

Chief Freeman stated, "Good evening to the Mayor, members of Council, City Manager Briley and staff, also the residents of the City. Thank you for being here tonight. I know you didn't come for me, but you're stuck now. We're going to talk a little bit about what we did last year and how we're proceeding in the future, so what I'm showing you on each of these – I'm going to have basically a 12 year time period really only concentrating on the right end, you can see these are the number of runs that we had this year and they're actually up a little bit from the past and we've gone up approximately 800 runs over the last 12 years. It's up our total budget numbers for the year. You can see we're up just a tiny bit from last year. Our overtime budget also crept up just a tiny bit from last year, but down from previous years. This is our overtime as a percentage of our total budget. You can see how the numbers have trended in the past. They were far higher. We've kept them down pretty well the last few years. This year we're just over 2% of the budget for overtime.

This is our runs per resident. It's a pretty telling number because as you know, the population has dropped somewhat over the years and at the same time; we continue to go up so that's our number for this year. It's right at .14. So these are our 2015 call statistics. Fire data we had 1288 fire calls, fire runs and those can be anything from a call for service to a gas leak, someone with an electric problem, anything of that type. So, you can see that's about 19% of what we do. So, as a fire department, we do a lot of EMS. It's really what the concentration is here. So, we had about 59 structure fires this year. Now, that, when we consider a structure fire, that's any fire where we had to pull a hose line off of a rig to extinguish it and then about 15 vehicle fires holding pretty steady over the past few years.

Emergency medical data – now that's where we've really gone up and that's the majority of our volume that you see over that 12 years increase. Currently we're at 80.76%. This is the first year we've ever gone over 80% so that's a milestone for us as well. We had 4,747 medical calls and then you can see how it breaks down: advanced life support, our heart attacks, anything where we've got to apply oxygen or cardiac monitors or something of that sort. Basic life support can be anything from the flu to a broken leg to a broken back, anything along those lines and then our hospital transports; we did just over 3,200 calls this year where we transported people to the hospital.

So, our fire prevention bureau – this number is incredible to me. We started tracking everything he does this year and in the past, we really only tracked that second number, the company fire inspections. You can see where he's at. This is a single guy working out of an office that's doing over 1,000 inspections a year of different types, so he's making very good use of his time. At the bottom, we have our smoke detectors distributed. As some residents know, we do have a free smoke detector program through the American Red Cross, so if you're a resident, you need smoke detectors, please come in and get them. We got some pretty exciting news. They actually upgraded them this year to the photoelectric type that are recommended and they also have the 10 year lithium battery in it, so you don't need to worry about changing batteries.

Special projects. This is something I'm very proud of. What my staff has done – they're working through the Fire Prevention Bureau. They reestablished our public education campaign. It's really just a couple of people doing this, but they have done a fantastic job and these are people that are on light duty, duty for different injuries and they have really stepped up the game here. We've done classes on fire safety for kindergarten through 7th grade, senior safety classes at the senior apartments and right now, we're working with our Vice City Manager to bring a community CPR even to the Community Center in June, so that'll be a mass event where everyone can come out and learn hands only CPR. Pretty excited about that.

Public properties did some work on our fire stations this year. I always like to give them credit. They do a lot for us. We actually had bay columns that were in danger of collapsing at the bottom. They came in, actually got a company that redid those completely and they're in beautiful condition now and repaired a sewer catch basin at our second basin.

This is something that should be interesting to a lot of the people in the building who probably wondered what the Fire Department was doing at the Center Mayfield building all those days this summer. So, what we were doing – we got new self-containing apparatus through a grant last year and that's what we were doing. We finally got them all put together, all the software installed and we did training on it this summer over a course of three days to make sure all of the shifts were aware of how they work.

My Assistant Fire Chief – I've got to give him credit for this last part of it. He worked very hard with Shaker Heights and University Heights to establish new fire response protocols. We have two types of aid we do – mutual aid where we can call people and then automatic aid since we have our mutual dispatch center with these cities. We actually have response protocol set up so we have fires in certain areas; units from other cities are automatically called to fill in. So, we assist each other in that way and we make sure that we always have a full fire response to all those addresses.

Notable achievements. First and foremost, millions in properties saved in quick response and excellent tactics. I can't overemphasize this. In our city, almost every house fire that we had with exception of house fires that started in the middle of the night and no one is aware of it, ours stop in the incipient phase. They rarely get past a single room on fire and if you look at the amount of property that we're looking at, it's probably closer to \$100 million and we maybe had \$1 million in loss if that. Now we look at our squad crews. These guys are our front line of defense. Like I said, 80% of the calls, these are all the types of calls that they handled this year. Full arrest patients that have no pulse or breathing, medical emergencies of many different types, stroke patients, and they were also recognized this year by local media for a heart attack patient protocol. We actually hold the record right now for the lowest aorta cardiac catheterization at both Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals and it's not a little bit; it's a lot. I mean, we, I think our fastest time from recognizing a heart attack to getting them into the cardiac catheterization lab was eight minutes and that's largest due just to the fantastic training and the dedication to duties these ladies and gentleman have. It's incredible and we also had an ambulance crew featured in The Sun Newspaper for a difficult childbirth. That's actually them up there on the right with the mom and the baby. We had a baby that was born and wasn't breathing and they revived the

baby, resuscitated him and got them both to the hospital and the baby is doing great now. He comes to visit us.

Future plans. I mentioned the self-contained breathing apparatus. Our first thing that we're doing right now is we've got new software that tracks the amount of air remaining during a fire attack. It's actually broadcast over Wi-Fi to a computer in the command car so that he can track each firefighter and see not only how much air they have at the current time, but whether they're still breathing the air and whether they're moving in case we have a firefighter that goes down. We're also working with our mutual aid partners, cities all over around us to bring mutual classes to our different areas. We're actually doing one with University Heights that was initiated by their department next week. It's five-day training through the State Fire Academy that's free of charge to us and we've done quite a few other ones like that. Still working on being Cuyahoga County Ready Certified. This is a program where we get certified as an emergency ready community and quite a few steps I had to go through and we're getting very near the end right now on that.

Working on community outreach efforts is another thing we're talking about for this summer. We'd like to have a couple of open houses during the summer at the fire station where people can just drop by and see the fire engines, bring the kids in, meet the firefighters and it's a lot of fun for us as well. And we're developing a plan to provide community CPR twice a year. This is something we did in the past and we weren't able to do. We're working with University Hospital to bring this back and we hope to see it happen this year.

Another exciting thing – we're very near completion of a contract to merge our special rescue team, the Heights Area Special Rescue Team, with the Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team. We basically have two very highly qualified programs in Cuyahoga County that are both very good at what they do. We train together now all the time. All of our trainings are co-trainings and we made a decision last year that it didn't make sense to continue as we were as separate entities buying duplicate equipment and those types of things, so we're working together now. We almost got the agreement hammered out and once we get that done, we'll of course we'll bring it to you and look at it for approval.

Conclusion - my words of course. I believe that the level of service provided to the members of our community are second to none. I can't say enough about the department. They're just incredible and our partnership with the City administration, all of you and the residents is well. The feedback we get from you, we always try to use it and we use it to make improvements and I think that this is a great partnership and thank you for allowing us to serve the City."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Chief Dave. Short and sweet and to the point. Committee reports. Public Safety and Health Committee. Councilman Seren."

Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee

Councilman Seren stated, "Well, except for thank you to the Chief, that's pretty much all I've got to report."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Well, we did have 30 minutes of promotions for safety forces, so that was a good report. Planning and Development Committee."

Report of the Planning and Development Committee

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I would like to take up the previous issue from the Board of Zoning Appeals."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Excellent."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I move that Council approve the resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals to permit a side yard that backs up 3.2 inches for an attached garage addition and variance from enclosed parking space requirement regulations to permit garage doors to be visible on the street elevation at 2710 Fairmount Boulevard."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Can I hear a motion for this?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "That was the motion."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, you got your motion. Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "There is a second. Mr. Raguz, 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."

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

 Nays: None

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

BZA Resolution Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, "I believe this motion passes and they are granted their variances. Is there anything else from Planning and Development Committee?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I just would like to highlight a few upcoming events. On March 12, the Heights High Swim Cadets are going to be performing at Warrensville High School and the Swim Cadets have been in operation for decades at Cleveland Heights High and it's amazing that the track record they have. I remember admiring Esther Williams when I was growing up, at risk of dating myself, and so if I can get there, I will. I'm not sure and then I'd also like to highlight the upcoming sundown ceremony in honor of Thomas Patton this Sunday, March 13 at sundown. It's an end of watch ceremony

recognizing his sacrifice. He was killed in service on our Police Department and I went to the last ceremony that was held for one of our police officers that was killed in action and it was very moving, so I recommend that to anybody that might like pay an honor to our police.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you, ma’am. Next we have Administrative Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe.”

Report of the Administrative Services Committee

Councilwoman Roe stated, “Yes, Your Honor. I would like to present Ordinance Number 7-2016 (AS) for first reading. This is an ordinance establishing salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation and benefits for officers and employees of the City. This is a revision of a previous ordinance.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Since it’s the first reading, we will not have a motion and we will have it open for discussion among the members as they review the legislation more carefully. Is there anything else, ma’am?”

Councilwoman Roe stated, “No, Your Honor.”

Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Community Relations and Recreation Committee. I’m serving as the Chair of that committee. We have, I have been having regular conversations with our Director of Parks and Properties and he has some exciting offerings for us coming up in the future. He’s working on a special project that he’ll unveil in April, so please stay tuned, but he’s also working on a Happy 5K Run which will be the second that the City of Cleveland Heights has been a sponsor with Western Reserve Racing and so, last year, my colleagues, Melissa Yasinow and Mary Dunbar, helped me to cross the finish line with a fast walk. Only Mary is a runner. Melissa and I did a speedy shuffle.”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “I prefer saunter.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Oh, that was the word we used. We sauntered to the finish line and so please stay tuned. We have invited Cleveland Clinic to sponsor and I believe we’re working on MetroHealth as well. So we want to have a happy, healthy walk in the first week of October I believe it is. Last year we had over 500 people participate when we thought only 200 would, so please talk this one up. We’d love to see over 1,000 people saunter to the finish line with Melissa, Mary and I. That’s all for Community Relations. The Finance Committee. Councilman Stein.”

Report of the Finance Committee

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “This committee does not have a report tonight.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Municipal Services. Councilwoman Yasinow.”

Report of the Municipal Services

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor. I have no legislation this evening, but I do have a few items of interest to residents. First off, one thing that I'm very grateful for the Fire Chief for his report, but in my opinion, one thing of note that was not on there, in my opinion, would be a big thank you to residents for the passage of Issue 53. We faced an enormous financial challenge this past year and one the areas that would have been hardest due to the cuts from the local government fund from the removal of the estate tax, it would have impacted our fire services. We would have lost several firefighters. This would have primarily impacted Fire Station #2 which would have impacted our ability to timely provide aid west of Superior Road. One of the things that we pride ourselves on is fast response times as we saw with our heart catheterization, response to heart attacks, we can get people into the heart cath lab within eight minutes. The passage of Issue 53 by residents helped keep those times what they are, so thank you very much for your equal dedication to our fire services, so thank you.

Other interesting and fun news we have coming up – I'd like to give a big congratulations to the Cleveland Heights residents who raised over \$100,000 this past weekend for pediatric cancer research. The St. Baldrick's event, it happened at the Community Center. This is an enormous success. I wish I could have attended, but I heard such lovely things. Pediatric cancer research is the most common cause of death by disease in children in America, but it receives only 4% of American Cancer Research funding. This fills a very necessary gap. It is important. We, our community, has been touched by pediatric cancer. Thankfully, we've had some amazing stories of survivorship. Unfortunately, we've also lost a child to pediatric cancer I believe within the past two years. So, to those who made this event possible, whether through donating time or donating money or just donating your support, thank you and they are still accepting donations if you are interested. I would also be remised if I didn't welcome, I mean wish people a happy, healthy, safe St. Patrick's Day. If you have not done so, please download the Uber and Lyft apps to your phone and for those that often forget because I can't believe it's upon us yet, this Sunday, March 13 is daylight savings time. Remember Spring forward, Fall back. Sorry, we're all losing that hour of sleep and then, on Saturday, March 19, we will be having the Cleveland Heights Easter Egg Roll at Forest Hill Park at 10:00 a.m. Bunny ears are optional."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I'm looking forward to checking yours out."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "We'll see."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Is that it?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Everything."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. A tradition for many communities has been to have a State of the City. Instead of big amount of pomp and circumstance, I ask you to indulge me for the next several minutes as I talk about our community. This year I'm happy to provide you with information not only about what we've done, but about what we're going to do. As I begin my remarks, I want to reiterate what my Council colleague Melissa Yasinow shared with you. Thank you for voting yes on Issue 53. The passage of 53 will stabilize our finances and our future. Your generosity to this government is

very impressive and very much appreciated. I will mention various departments and initiatives and please be aware that first and foremost, our team of professional staff members is led by our City Manager Tanisha Briley. She, by charter is our Chief Executive and Administrator, so basically she's responsible for the day to day operations of our organization to provide services and support our community needs while being respectful of costs and I have to say that she has a great eye for budget and finance.

First, let me talk about public safety, so that's how you go to the room this evening. At 7:00, we promoted several people and swore someone in new to serve us. We have some of the best safety forces in our area. Our police force is led by newly sworn in Chief Annette Mecklenburg who is a long-term resident and who rose through the ranks. She is committed to serve and protect. The commitment to communication continues in our community about having the police have their own separate web page, listing daily incidents and crime data. Our police initiative with community response teams and the program called Meet the Police reaches out to every neighborhood, so our police listen to our residents. We continue to have bike patrols. Now we have six officers who put pedal to the metal and move throughout the community and they do move fast. They're in our parks. They're in our neighborhoods. They're in our commercial districts. They're wearing body cameras. They're talking to us and I want to thank them for their continuous service to us.

The Fire Department, as you just received a summary, information is led by Chief Dave Freeman. Our firefighters are all EMTs and they respond to thousands of emergency calls and working fires each year. Our crews are in contact with area hospitals as soon as they arrive at your home. The ambulances are equipped with direct lines service so they can transport you and save valuable time getting instructions directly from nurses and doctors at the closest facility. We have joint dispatch services with University Heights and Shaker Heights and our team continues to explore the possibility of regional dispatch. Our City Council and City Manager continue to support our safety forces with finding ways to obtaining the newest and best technology available. These brave men and women work hard for us all the time and I want to especially give recognition to the folks in the Fire Department for their help on Issue 53. To Cleveland Heights, our Fire Department is the bravest.

Public Works. Our Public Works Department led by Alex Mannarino is involved in many aspects of your daily life from recycling and roadwork and working with the forestry of our community, the trees, snow removal, leaf pickup and so much more. Although there have been budget cuts and a decrease in personnel, they have through cost containment and training, gotten the job done. This year and into 2017, there will be roadwork on Lee Road, Cedar Road and Noble Road. Much of the financing for these projects has come from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Cuyahoga County's Department of Transportation and the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Residential Street Paving Program is funded by the gasoline tax, the registration tax and, in some eligible areas, CDBG funds (Community Development Block Grant funds) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As most of you know, we've been in negotiations with the City of Cleveland's Water Department regarding the transfer of our water division to the City of Cleveland. We hope to finalize that transition this year and in the long term, we hope to control our cost even better.

Housing. Our residential housing of all kinds and sizes is an important asset; our most important asset in Cleveland Heights. Our Housing Department is led by Rick Wagner. This department coordinates point of sale inspections, systematic inspections and manages a strong nuisance abatement program. Through our nuisance abatement efforts, we are able to clean up distressed properties. Our City also charges the owner to put liens on properties for grass cutting, the nuisance abatement demolition and police actions. The systematic inspections program over a five year cycle inspects every property in the City and I personally believe that our inspection process has saved us from having even more blighted and slum properties and keeps our properties regularly maintained and specifically those point of sales make sure that every time a property transfers from one owner to the next owner, there's an upgrade or at least a continuous good quality of the product, our primary product in Cleveland Heights – Housing. This year, over 2,000 homes were inspected and each property received a violation notice if necessary, but there are people who actually continuously maintain their properties that don't even receive a violation notice. We've also worked closely with the Home Repair Resource Center on Noble Road. They assist our homeowners and property owners with things that are repair oriented and help them find funds through a variety of local, state and federal sources so that people can continue to invest in their homes, but even when they have budget crises, they can do it affordably. They also have one of the most successful Lead Safe programs using funds made available by the county and federal programs so that you've heard so much about lead contamination in Cleveland and of course in Flint, Michigan, but in Cleveland Heights, we're ahead of the game. We're using the money correctly and making more of our older housing stock safe.

Development. On a daily basis, requests for information go into our Planning and Development Department lead by Richard Wong. We are committed to bringing strong commercial and residential development into our community. A major concern to all of us is the future of Severance Center. We are also aware that Top of the Hill at Cedar and Euclid Heights Boulevard is a prime spot for development. Both of these issues are a top priority for this Council. We also support our commercial districts and are looking forward to the streetscapes projects soon to be a reality on Cedar Lee and Cedar Fairmount. Important to all of us is the quality of life we share.

We call ourselves the Home to the Arts because our residents believe and support Cain Park, Dobama, the Ensemble Theater, the Cedar Lee Theater and there are artistic restaurants and other venues throughout our City. We are a community committed to the health and wellness of our residents and we have over 140 acres of parkland. We have volunteers who coach hundreds of young people in sports teams and related activities and there are a variety of classes – everything from bridge to ice skating at our Community Center. We have over 100 block parties every year and our neighbors are engaged and active. Two neighborhood groups in the last two years who have blown my socks off are the Boulevard Neighborhood Group, but nobody compares to Noble Neighbors. They've just been awesome. I want to give them a tremendous shout-out. Not only are they well organized; they know

how to get data together. I've been impressed by their attention to detail and their gentle treatment of their Council members. Thank you. Anyone who saw – who has been to any of our public hearing or just to a Council meeting early knows our residents have passion for our community and we want to continue to see those residents express their passion. This Council listens to what you have to say. We might not always agree, but we are always committed to listening to you and thinking about what you share with us.

Partnerships. We should also acknowledge that our community's strength is built on partnerships with many non-profits that are a part of who we are: Reaching Heights, Home Repair Resource Center and Heights Arts, the Bicycle Coalition, Heights Community Congress, the Boys and Girls Club and Future Heights to name a few. We are also partners with the school district and our Tiger Nation, for them, we have an alum on Council. Vice Mayor Councilman Stein is an alum of Cleveland Heights and that's important to us. We want to stay engaged with our school system. We're committed to strengthening also our relationship with University Circle. I have met with their executive recently and our City Manager and staff are prepared to reach out so that we become a part of the extended University Circle area. We've also met with executives of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals and just last month, we welcome MetroHealth to Severance Circle. They will continue to operate what had been and emergency facility at Kaiser/HealthSpan. Now it's MetroHealth.

The federal government - what have they got to do with us? I have requested and received meetings with both Senator Sherrod Brown and Congresswoman Marcia Fudge. I didn't go there just to meet and greet. I went on your behalf and the behalf of our children in this community. I went with an ask and in those meetings, I asked them to help Cleveland Heights get some of our money back from the federal government, to please look into money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, Health and Human Services. I want them to find ways to help us get no less than \$100,000 from each of those departments and when I said that to Congresswoman Fudge, she suggested that we take a look at getting money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture because she's on that committee. She said, 'Don't forget that I'm a former mayor, so let's talk again, let's have your staff give us some detail and I'm going to focus my staff on helping you get some things done in Cleveland Heights, so we're working hard for you, but most importantly, financially this year and next year, we're going to be in a much better position, specifically due to the hard work of our City Manager who must have been a finance nerd in a previous life and her able bodied assistant Finance Director Tom Raguz. They don't miss a penny. They keep us on topic and I though I was a numbers nerd, but they go even further than I do on a regular basis. I just get to question them and ask things regularly. We've saved on hospitalization by joining the county's health insurance program. Every department has stabilized their budget and focuses on stretching our dollars as far as possible. Our Capital Improvement Plan is actually that now – a plan. We know what we're going to do and how we're going to do it and when we're going to do it and as long as the financial markets treat this respectfully, we can continue to do that. At the end of 2015, due to watching our funds and also non-recurring one-time expenses where we got lucky and, as I say to my personal friends, the good Lord loved us a lot. We had somebody who had a \$10 million final payment from a company they worked with and that was \$200,000 to the City of Cleveland Heights. For that, we're most appreciative and we

hope they continue to work hard for somebody else. Those kinds of things allowed us to set aside a reserve fund which we hope will capture the attentions of the rating houses and help our bond rating go up. We've also been working with the Regional Income Tax Authority and their subpoena program to make sure that everybody pays their fair share in this community. We want to make sure that we stabilize ourselves after the loss of our local government funds and the estate taxes.

In conclusion, I want to recognize and thank City Manager Tanisha Briley for working hand in hand with me even when I tried to exhaust her. I'm older than her and I hope that you will keep up with me. Her team also works well with us and for that, I am most appreciative. They are extremely diligent. If I call the Public Works Director at 5:00 in the morning, he answers with at least a fake smile in his voice and when I call the Housing Director at 6:00 in the evening, he also; they must transfer this fake voice smile around. And the Planning Director of course, who has worked with me for years even at other employers, is just used to me, so he says, 'What's up, Cheryl?' I also want to thank, on behalf of my colleagues, each of our Directors and Chiefs. Chief Freeman, Chief Mecklenburg, Alex Mannarino, Richard Wong, Rick Wagner, Joe McRae, Jimmy Lambdin, Tom Raguz, Jim Juliano, our legal beagle who tries to keep me from committing anything illegal, and our Deputy City Manager Susanna who kind of brings the warmth to our organization and plays Ms. or Dr. Mom on occasion. When these, when life is tough here in this organization, we become a team and we work together. My staff is strong. Our staff works hard for you. We listen to you and we try to get things right the first time, but occasionally, if you are patient with us, we will get it right sooner or later. As a community, we have faced things head on. There are tough things that faced us, but I believe in this community because this community has believed in me. We are diverse. We are multicultural. We are creative and we are opinionated and we never give up. Unlike most cities in this country, when we've had tough times and economic challenges, and felt the effects, we just keep working through it. We're committed as a Council to make this a stronger and better community and my colleagues, every one of them, are committed to working on the issues with and for you. Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahlil Seren, Jason Stein and Melissa Yasinow have provided me with the right kind of support to help lead this community into the future. I may be the face of Council, but I am not the body of Council. These six people including myself, we are the body that works hard for you every Monday evening and often three or four days in the week to make sure that things happen for you. I cannot do it alone. Without their support and each of you have my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to help me look better and this community to be better.

During the balance of this year and into next year, Council will be focusing on a few activities. Parking. We've instructed our staff that parking in our commercial districts is not just what we want. It is what our residents, business owners and property owners want – to help our commercial districts survive to the best of their ability. The City Manager has taken on this assignment and she and the Deputy City Manager have done a complete analysis of what we have and how it will work forward on this project. We've taken input in from the property, the owners and the people who work in these districts and we're looking at everything from accepting different options on the coins to parking apps on our cell phones or credit cards and we hope to deliver something by early summer if not before. I, of course, am pushing for before, but they must sleep the City Manager tells me and so, I have been forced by state and federal law to let them go home. Economic Development which includes the following:

working on, as I mentioned earlier, projects like Top of the Hill, the redevelopment of Severance Center, the revitalization of Noble Road and other housing issues. And last but not least, we want to reach out to our citizens and make sure you feel engaged and involved. We're committed to communicating with you by listening, adopting some of our thoughts and simply working on your behalf to get things done.

Finally, as Mayor, for only 60 days on Friday, I have heard from so many of you, met with some of you, brainstormed with some of you and shared your experiences as residents of the City. To our residents, we want to hear your ideas and concerns and tonight I say to you, you are our greatest strength. We are better than a lot of other places because of your investment in us. We get inspired by what you do, so please don't be afraid to reach out to us as a Council and to our staff. Thank you. Good night and God bless Cleveland Heights. That concludes our meeting on March 7, 2016. Our next Council meeting is March 21, 2016."

The City Council meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw