

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:26 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo and listen to a Bluestone Development presentation.

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

Excused: Yasinow

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

Councilwoman Roe moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a public official at 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dunbar. Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

Excused: Yasinow

Executive Session concluded at 7:26 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:38 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, Monday, April 18, 2016. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll please?"

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

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Ms. Yasinow had a loss in her family. Her maternal grandmother passed away this past week and so we will excuse her absence. With that, we have the joy and the honor of bringing a new member of Council onboard this evening and I would like to open the floor for nominations for the new member of Council. Vice Mayor Stein."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. I want to nominate a long-time committed resident of Cleveland Heights that has an extensive and impressive resume. Therefore, I'm excited to nominate Mike Ungar."

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

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there any discussion or any other nominations? At this time, I'd like to invite the person who I believe will be swearing Mr. Ungar in; that's Sharon Sobol Jordan. Would you approach the microphone for us please? Did you want to say something first?"

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "Thank you, Honorable Mayor and members of the Council. This is a very special night. Tonight Michael Ungar will take the oath of office and join you as a member of Council. As a long-time friend and colleague, I am honored to stand with him to represent his family, his friends and a grateful community. We are overjoyed by your selection of Michael Ungar. We know, however, that this was not an easy choice - that you had many outstanding candidates for this one post, but you have made an excellent choice in Michael Ungar. Michael is an accomplished attorney with the firm of Ulmer & Berne. He is the Chair of their Litigation Section and a member of the Management Committee. He has numerous national awards including being named the highest ranking attorney in Ohio for four consecutive years. That's number one out of 44,000. He has a proven track record of professional civic leadership including 16 years as Chair of this City's Planning Commission and as past President of the prestigious Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. He has made his home in Cleveland Heights for three decades with his wife Deborah, their two children and an enormously lovable Bernese Mountain Dog appropriately known as Zeus.

Yes, you have made an excellent choice in Michael Ungar, but I think it is equally important tonight to understand why Michael chose, at this time, to seek this post. Why would a man like Michael Ungar step forward at this stage in his very successful life and career to take on the added demand of public office? I believe the answer is this – that despite his many accomplishments, awards, successes, Michael knows very simply that his work is not yet done. The Mandel Brothers are known to say that they invest in people with the values, abilities and passion to change the world. Michael Ungar is just this kind of person. He is a man of integrity and character, authentic and sincere, driven by a strong sense of justice and fairness. He is a man of exceptional intellect and work ethic. He is both a curious learner and a creative problem solver. He is a man of just the right mix of business savvy and heart. He will challenge you to do better and he will expect the same from you in return. He believes it is an honor to serve the public. He knows that working together, we can change the world. Honorable Mayor, members of this Council, I can think of no better place for Michael to continue his work than with this Council and in service of the people of this great City. So now, it is my distinct honor to administer the oath of office to your newest Councilmember Michael Ungar."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, hold on. Now, I want, because we didn't have a lot to say, I wanted to let you speak and now we have to call the roll. Mr. Raguz."

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

                  Nays:   None

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. I believe that we have sworn... we have elected to choose Michael Ungar to serve as the newest member of Council. If you would approach the podium with members of your family and Ms. Sobol Jordan to swear you in. If members of Council would go down to beside the family, we're all going to stand in the background and that way, they can take a series of pictures with us beside the family."

(Various comments during placement.)

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "All right. Raise your hand. Repeat after me. I solemnly swear and affirm..."

Michael Ungar stated, "I solemnly swear and affirm..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "That I will support the Constitution..."

Michael Ungar stated, "That I will support the Constitution..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "And the laws of the United States of America,"

Michael Ungar stated, "And the laws of the United States of America,"

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "The Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio,"

Michael Ungar stated, "The Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio,"

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights,"

Michael Ungar stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights,"

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position..."

Michael Ungar stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "As Councilmember,"

Michael Ungar stated, "As Councilmember,"

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "I will honestly..."

Michael Ungar stated, "I will honestly..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "Faithfully..."

Michael Ungar stated, "Faithfully..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "And impartially..."

Michael Ungar stated, "And impartially..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "Discharge the duties of that office..."

Michael Ungar stated, "Discharge the duties of that office..."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "To the best of my ability."

Michael Ungar stated, "To the best of my ability."

Sharon Sobol Jordan stated, "Congratulations."

(Applause.)

(Various comments while taking pictures.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "The first that we'll do is – each of Council will be given the opportunity to make a statement if they'd like and then we will allow our newest member, the new rookie of the year, Carol, I think you've had the shortest rookie term possible. You deserve 120 days as rookie? Not even 120 days."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Not quite."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Kahlil. Councilman Stein."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Pass. Welcome aboard, Mike."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilwoman Dunbar."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "This was a tough choice actually, but I'm delighted that Mike Ungar is joining us and we had a lot of good choices, but I'm delighted, so."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilwoman Roe, would you like to say anything?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Welcome. I look forward to having someone more rookie than me."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Happy to be that."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilman Ungar, we welcome you to have a few moments to say something this evening."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you, Mayor Stephens. Good evening. I want to begin by thanking all of my family and friends and all of the residents of our great City for being here tonight. As many of you know, because I've been hardly able to contain my enthusiasm since the announcement, I'm thrilled to be here and I'm really looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and working with all of my new colleagues. Please indulge me for a few additional thank yous, as hopefully it's obvious, are in order

here this evening. I suppose they fall in the category of being mandatory, but they're also heartfelt. First, to my dear friend Sharon Sobol Jordan – wow, what an introduction! Sharon, for those that don't know her, she is a truly disruptive leader and I mean that in the best sense of the word. She is somebody for whom I and so many others in our community and throughout the state and throughout the country have such enormous respect and admiration for. It's no secret frankly that our county is running a whole lot better these days under the careful leadership of County Executive Armond Budish and one of the primary reasons we all know that's happening is because of his wise choice in terms of his Chief of Staff. They say that the type of calm, steady and trusted and stable leadership that Sharon brings to the table is the type that organizations so desperately need, but are often times lacking. With Sharon helping to run our county, there's zero doubt in my mind that we're in good hands. Sharon, I mean this from the bottom of my heart – you honor me, you honor our Mayor, you honor our City and all the residents of Cleveland Heights by being here and thank you for doing so. It means an awful lot to me.

Second, I want to thank my mom, Marsha Ungar, not just for being my mom, not just for holding the Bible, not just for all the love and support that she's provided to me throughout my entire life, but also for something that you might know about and you might be interested in this about my fellow members of Council. This didn't come out all, I don't believe during the vetting process, but I want to tell you something about me that you probably didn't know and that is there's a possibility I'm sitting here today because it might have been in my DNA. And what do I mean by that? Well, many know that my dad Bud Unger, who's no longer with us, was the founder and the owner of a very popular shoe store on Mayfield Road called Mar-Lou Shoes, now ably run by my brother Dan who is with us tonight, but what I bet you don't know is that my dad was a long-time City Councilman and the President of City Council in South Euclid which is the community in which I grew up and guess what? My mom was a long-time School Board Member of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst City School District and ultimately became the President of that School Board, so again, there might just be a little bit of this in my DNA.

Next, I want to thank my amazing wife Deborah, who along with my two daughters, represent the three most important women in my life and I'll short cut it and just say that current State Farm commercial says, 'I'm never letting go.'

I also want to thank my law firm Ulmer & Berne and my firm's Managing Partner Kip Reader who is a Cleveland Heights resident now, a proud Cleveland Heights resident, a transplant from Shaker and he and his wife Sarah are empty nesters. The support that I've gotten from my firm has been tremendous. And while I'm thanking my firm, I need to call out and thank the most important person at my law firm, at least for me, and that would be Melissa Crick and her husband Tom who came here this evening. Missy, raise your hand. She's been my assistant for... how many years, Missy? 16 years. She's amazing. Now I have to tell you a little secret. Missy wasn't too thrilled when I told her we just picked up 46,000 new clients, some of whom, as Missy directed my attention to this afternoon, quickly were able to locate my work Email address and began sending me Emails, but I can promise the residents in all seriousness, that she'll continue to take good care you just the way she does all important clients.

Finally, Mayor Stephens and my new colleagues on Council, I haven't been through one of these drills before, but I want to thank you on my own behalf, not just because I was successful, but on behalf

of the citizens of Cleveland Heights, I think you ran this process in a classy, professional and dignified way, and trust me, I'm not just saying that because I was ultimately the successful candidate and, in fact, some in the room may have been there. I know you were there back in February, I think it was on February 18, I went in front of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. They were vetting some of the candidates and I noted then, I believe then and I believe now, that the process that we went through to get here, conducted by our Mayor and our Council was more substantive and more dignified than much of what is taking place at the national level by candidates in pursuit of the White House."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I don't want to be President, Michael."

Councilman Ungar stated, "I also want to take moment, I'm almost done and thank you for indulging me. I only get one shot at this. I also want to thank the former Mayors under whom I served under Planning Commission and those include Mayor Edwards, Mayor Kelley and Mayor Wilcox – all terrific and dedicated Mayors. I especially want to thank Mayors Kelley and Wilcox and Councilperson Bonnie Kaplan who inspired me and encouraged me to pursue this position. They can all rest assured that they're not off the hook in terms of my continuing to seek their wise counsel. Be forewarned, Bonnie.

Finally, to the residents of Cleveland Heights and to the members of Council, obviously, I think that you made a wise selection, but I also recognize that it's now up to me to prove to you that you did and I am looking forward to working side by side with each of you – with you Mayor Stephens to make our City a better place for everyone and frankly, I can hardly wait to get started. So, thanks again to everyone for coming this evening. It means an awful lot to me."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "The best part about being Mayor is I get the last word usually. Kahlil, would you like to say something before I get the last word?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. Yes. Councilman, you've just thanked a lot of people, very deserving people and I just wanted to thank you, not only for your long service on Planning Commission to this City, but also for your willingness to serve here on Council and bring your energy and your intellect and your dedication to this Council in service to our citizens and I just want to extend that thanks to you and make sure that you know that it's not just sort of a – something you have to prove yourself. I mean, it's something you have to prove yourself every day in this job, but I think the fact that you're willing to serve, the fact that you're willing to give what really amounts to a lot of yourself to the residents of Cleveland Heights is admirable and so you should be thanked for that. So, thank you."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And the final word. What was is Paul Harvey used to say? I served with Michael for eight years on our Planning Commission and those were eight great years. He knows that I don't like to take too long. I don't like to deliberate too much. I want the facts and I want to get the job done right and so, he's well prepared to serve on this Council with this leadership, but I want you all to

watch what we do in Cleveland Heights from here on out. We've got young leadership on our staff, the prevailing joke I push is that they're young enough to keep up with me and we are going to do the things that need to be done and we're listening to our residents. So, stay tuned on government channel. If you don't get a chance to be here, to watch what we're trying to do on your behalf, and continue to send us your ideas and recommendations because this is government for the people by the people and of the people all the time. And with that, we move on to our agenda for this evening. So, if there are members of the audience that would like to leave, you're welcome to do so at this point before I move on with the balance of my agenda."

(Various comments as people leave.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "The first thing we'd like to do this evening is not scripted on our agenda, but we have a young man in Cleveland Heights who should be out in the hallway and Susanna hopefully is finding him and his family and bringing them in and we want to recognize him and his endeavors. Richard, we're looking for Susanna. Susanna – is she?

Many of us have goals and aspirations. Sometimes we don't know what we want to do until we're 40. Sometimes we never know what we want to do, but there are those among us who figure out what they want to do through coaching and spending time with their family or they find something that becomes the love of their life early on. It appears that Charles Conwell has found one of the loves of his life, at least the first love of his life. He might have many others to come, but this is the first time he's really loved something enough to do it more than anything else he does and so, this evening, our City Council wants to recognize you for not only loving something, but doing it well, taking time from your family, your friends, from school to continue to work on it, but coming back to us and spending time with us and so, we want to honor you because not all people, not all Americans, not all people in Cleveland Heights get to represent the way you're going to represent when you go to the Olympics this year, so without further ado, if you'd step forward to the podium and one of our Council members is a Heights High Alum, so he's going to tell you concisely how he feels about this."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Heights Alum of '96, so a few years ago, but congratulations to Charles Conwell, one of our own who is on his way to the 2016 Summer Olympics. 'We are so proud of your accomplishment and realize the hard work, discipline and commitment that got you to this place. We know that these qualities will be part of you forever as you go forward in your life. Your community of Cleveland Heights will be cheering you on and proud of the fact that you are representing not only the United States, but also our hometown. On behalf of the City Council and the people of Cleveland Heights, we wish you the best and give you our support as you take part in such a special world event.' Signed, Mayor Stephens, Council – they all signed."

(Applause. Various comments during photographs.)

Charles Conwell stated, "I really just want to thank the Council for giving me the recognition and support that you all have given me, giving me this nice award. I really want to thank Cleveland Heights

for being behind me and supporting me through it all. It's just an amazing thing to have my whole city behind me. I really appreciate that and actually pushing me to go harder."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

(Applause.)

Mrs. Conwell stated, "We all just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you. Charles is very...he's a very humble person, so he looks at everything as I'm just this normal, ordinary type teenager. He doesn't realize how exciting and as well as he's done. He just thinks of it like – okay, I just go to school. I'm just training. I'm just... Everybody recognize him as this great Olympian and I'll be glad when he – if a little fire get up under him a little bit more to realize that I have really accomplished something amazing and I just want to say thank you to each one of you all for recognizing my son and taking the time out for today because I always wanted someone besides in a boxing world to recognize my son. I wanted other people to know who he is as a person, so thank you very much."

Mayor Stephens and Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "I forgot something. Thank you. One of our former members is now a State Representative; Representative Janine Boyd from the Ohio House of Representatives has sent you a proclamation on behalf of the House of Representatives of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of Ohio. They 'are pleased to congratulate you on qualifying for United States Olympic Boxing Team, a Senior at Cleveland Heights High. You've combined talent and competitive spirit with the highest ideals of good sportsmanship to establish yourself as a truly exceptional athlete. With admirable dedication, you have worked diligently toward attaining ultimate proficiency in boxing and, as a result, you won a Gold Medal in the Middleweight Division at the America's Olympics as a qualifier to secure a spot on the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Your unwavering commitment to excellence has earned you the respect and esteem of many and you are certainly deserving of your high praise. Your accomplishments and leadership both in and out of competition are a justifiable source of pride and outstanding reflection, not only on you, but also on your family, your teammates, your coaches, your school and us, your community. Indeed, the same maturity and experience you've gained through your participation in sports will greatly aid you in meeting the challenges of your life in the future. You win some, you lose some and hopefully you'll win more than you lose, but it's learning to lose and to win that makes you a great American. Thus, it's with sincere pleasure that we commend you on your personal success and salute you as one of Ohio's finest citizens.' Signed, Clifford A. Rosenberger, Speaker of Ohio House of Representatives and Representative Janine Boyd, House District 9, your home district.

Thank you. Happiness is abounding. This is a pretty proud evening for us. If you'd like to leave now, you can. We don't make people stay 'til the end of our meetings. They're pretty exciting for us, but they may not be exciting for other people.



Okay, first off this evening, we need to approve minutes of the regular Council meeting held Monday, April 4, 2016. Is that correct, Mr. Raguz?"

Tom Raguz stated, "And also March 21."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And March 21?"

Tom Raguz stated, "Correct."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Did we have additions, changes?"

Tom Raguz stated, "I've received some from Carol."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "And me."

Tom Raguz stated, "Oh, from Mary as well."

Mayor Stephens stated, "From both Councilwoman Dunbar and Councilwoman Roe? Excellent. Those... I'm sure those changes will be made. We need to approve those and I will ask for a vote on that."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I move that we approve minutes of the regular Council meetings held on Monday, March 21 and Monday, April 4, 2016."

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

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

Abstain: Ungar

Nays: None

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Oh, I'm sorry. Our abstention rule is that we have to vote on somebody abstaining. What do we do this evening since he wasn't here to read them, he doesn't know."

Tanisha Briley stated, "We actually haven't voted on minutes in the past, so I think that we're okay."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Oh, okay. We're okay. We'll be okay. All right. Do we have personal communications from the residents? Yes, ma'am, if you'd like to come up to the podium and state your name and address for the record and then your comments and we'd like for you to stay around three minutes if at all possible.

Oh, you look familiar. It's because you're on CAC?"

Althea Cheatham stated, "Used to be.

Mayor Stephens stated, "Go ahead, ma'am."

Althea Cheatham stated, "Mayor Stephens, Vice Mayor Stein, members of Council, City Planning Director Briley, Law Director Juliano, I believe, my name is Althea Cheatham. I reside at 3012 East Derbyshire. I've been absent from City Council meetings for quite a while now and I'm not addressing the Council this evening with a formal complaint. I simply wanted to have an opportunity to be in your presence to see your live faces, not pictures in the Focus magazine and to have you see my face and my name and know that I am a long-time resident of Cleveland Heights. My home on East Derbyshire is in a very interesting location and if you haven't had a chance to drive down the street, please, I invite you to do so and as you do and come up on my particular house, take note just behind the house there's a very large structure. It was previously Grace Lutheran Church and it has now fallen into the hands of a commercial business and things are happening very quickly with that. There will be a meeting this coming Wednesday evening. I know that you may not be directly involved with what happens in all of the decisions that are made, but I do want to know... I want you to know that those of us who live in that area and are affected by decisions made on the property are very concerned about the integrity of our own homes that we've enjoyed for so many years.

I also want to call to your attention that we seem to be in a state of transition. I know the property directly next to mine to the west is up for sale – is a new, wonderful family who will soon be leaving the City of Cleveland Heights. Two properties across the street are for sale and then another property farther down to the west, almost to Lamberton, has a sale pending I believe. So, there's a lot of transition and maybe you may not hear a lot of gathered voices at this forum as you did a few weeks ago when all the members from Vandemar I believe it is came and spoke so passionately about their neighborhood and their concerns, but please know that those of us who live on East Derbyshire do have the same kind of concerns and the same kind of passion about where we live and we certainly want you to know that we respect the integrity of our properties. We enjoy living where we are. We're proud Cleveland Heights residents and I ask for your consideration in any situations or decisions that may come before you in the near future. So, once again, thank you so much for your attention this evening and I look forward to seeing you at future Council meetings."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there anyone else who would like to make a statement to Council? But I want to finish the public comments first. Sir."

Gus Williams stated, "Hello. My name is Gus Williams. I live at 1961 Revere Road in Cleveland Heights. I have a little bit of a concern that's been bothering me. I've been retired for about 10 years now. I've been living in Cleveland Heights for about 40 years. The problem I'm having is from time to time, the sidewalks, because of the trees that sit on the devil strip, it lifts the sidewalk up. I've had to replace that a couple times throughout my time living here in Cleveland Heights and it costs me a lot of money. The problem I'm having now is I just got another citation to that same degree whereby they planted a tree there and that tree lifted up the sidewalk and now I'm expected to pay for that. The problem I'm having with that is, what happens is – when they plant those trees, they don't make sure

that those trees are completely level, coming straight up. I got pictures of it. It shows that the tree leans to one side toward the street and I think that's what allows the roots, when it gets underneath that to lift up the sidewalk. I would like to know why it is that it is my responsibility to have to pay for that when the City plants the tree. To me, there's couple of options that the City could provide. I don't know if this is the right forum for this, but what I see is – either when you plant those trees, you have to make sure that those trees are completely standing straight up with some tie wire off to the side to hold it straight so it grows straight and doesn't lean or you need to put something there that stops it from getting underneath the sidewalk or if you're going to commit me to pay for that, and I'm retired and I can't really afford to, but it's a citation to which it puts on me. Then you should provide me with someone in the City of Cleveland Heights that will do that job for me for a lot less money than people that are willing to do it now. So, that's a complaint that I have and I'd like to know – is there anything that I can do about that?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "What I will direct you to do, sir, is to talk with our City Manager. We can't negotiate that here at a Council meeting. And so I..."

Gus Williams stated, "Okay, I didn't know..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "That's okay. Not a problem."

Gus Williams stated, "I didn't know what was the proper forum. I talk to people and I get the run-around."

Mayor Stephens stated, "But you came to us and you asked. Okay. So, I'm going to ask you to... our City Manager's name is Tanisha Briley. Ms. Briley is seated between these two gentlemen over here. She'll either give you her card or get your phone information from you so that she or one of her staff can follow up with you."

Gus Williams stated, "Okay, thank you much."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Thank you. Okay, is there anyone else with public comment this evening? If not, then we go to another happy moment this evening. We are going to establish a new poet laureate for the City of Cleveland Heights. Her name is Rachel Bernstein. Who is coming forward to introduce her this evening?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Rachel Bernstein is..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is introducing our new poet laureate. Duh. "

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "She's in charge of Heights Arts."

Mayor Stephens stated, "That's right. I forgot."

Rachel Bernstein stated, "Good evening, Mayor and City Council. My name is Rachel Bernstein and I am the Executive Director of Heights Arts and for those of you who don't know us, we started in the year 2000 from a visioning process here at the City here in recognition of the need to represent the

many artistic people we have in our community. We are a very special community in Cleveland Heights and I feel very fortunate to be the second director of an organization that really represents much of the creativity that bubbles up from, as Mr. Ungar said, our 46,000 residents here. So, tonight I'm very thrilled to be able to present to you now the next poet laureate that we have through this joint operation of the City of Cleveland Heights Arts and this process started in 2005 with our first poet laureate and now we're going on 11 years and I think, up until this year, we were the only city in the State of Ohio that had a poet laureate, so..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Who else joined us?"

Rachel Bernstein stated, "I'm sorry, oh, Athens, Ohio. I just found out. And now, of course, we have a poet laureate in the state, the first poet laureate, and so we're hoping to do some programming to bring all of them together. So, I just want to let you know just a little bit about Christine Howie. She grew up and has lived most of her life here in Cleveland Heights. She was a director and stage actor at the Dobama Theater which is also another treasure of Cleveland Heights that has been here for I think 30 years. She was a theater critic for Scene Magazine and named best critic in Ohio by the Cleveland Press Club and Society Professional Journalists. She is also a playwright and her one women play "Exact Change" is a poetry-rich narrative which received a world premiere at the Cleveland Public Theater in 2014 and many, many other wonderful things that Christine brings to this position. I first met Christine during one of our programming events called Ekphrastacy that we hold at Heights Arts. It's one of our first multi-disciplinary programs that we combine poetry with the exhibitions that we hold in our gallery and needless to say, she was stunning in her performance and I'm going to now announce Meredith Holmes who is our outgoing poet laureate to read a poem and then Christine will read a poem, but first I'd also like to present to her this plaque that was also made by a local artist Shana Pentecost in recognition of your service for the next two years."

(Applause.)

Meredith Holmes stated, "It's good to be with you all again. How many of us wish that we could go back to redo parts of our life with the benefit of hindsight, but I got to do that this past year. I got to do poet laureate again to form a sort of bridge so we could... so Heights Arts could codify our process for selecting the next poet laureate. I appreciated what Councilman Ungar said about the integrity of the process of selecting the new Councilperson because Heights Art did something, went through a process. It's very important how you do things and how you choose people, so I was again reminded, as Rachel just said what a great City this is and how many creative people there are and what a really great asset to the City Heights Art is and how increasingly the things that Heights Arts does includes more and more people and more and more kinds of people and more new voices are heard all the time at Heights Art and that seems to me what Cleveland Heights is all about. So, I have a poem to read. This will be my last poem to read as poet laureate and it's a reaction to what somebody said once about all of the vacant lots in Cleveland Heights that are a result of the houses that were demolished after the 2008 housing crisis. He said, they were like, it was almost, the streets were like a place were like where a person whose teeth had been knocked out, like they were missing teeth. I thought that was a very sad thing and I didn't really agree with it, so here's another way of looking at vacant lots.

One

house

vacant

demolished:

instant amnesia.

Then another and another.

In time, all memory of both houses and residents

Disappears through these openings as out a raised window.

Light and air rush in, as into a stale room, sometimes

with a calming, cleansing effect.

Maybe we need breathing room to be neighborly, maybe we live

too close for comfort, like people jammed into an elevator

keeping themselves to themselves, arms at their sides, faces tight.

Maybe last fall a lot that was a rectangle of mud and straw

is now green, and some kids decide to play catch there

wearing a path in the grass between their houses.

The mail carrier uses this path, and so do people carrying plates

of hot dogs, corn, and shortcake for a picnic on the Fourth.

Maybe someone thins her day lilies and plants the extras

in a bare spot near the sidewalk where everyone can see them.

Maybe someone with a pickup truck brings a load of tree stumps

and people help to arrange them in a circle in the middle of the lot

which is looking less and less vacant, especially on long summer

evenings when people sit around talking, maybe getting ideas.

Thank you.”

(Applause.)

Meredith Holmes stated, "I give you the next Cleveland Heights poet laureate Chris Howie."

(Applause.)

Christine Howie stated, "Symbolically knocked the poem out of her hand as I take over. I thought all these people were here to listen to poetry. I guess they're not. I wanted to thank the Mayor and the members of Council for supporting and having a poet laureate in your town. I think it's extraordinary and when I tell people that I'm a poet laureate of Cleveland Heights, they go, 'That is so amazing.'"

Mayor Stephens stated, "Isn't it cool?"

Christine Howie stated, "This city is so cool. It is so cool, but actually when I go around to various poetry readings, I meet people and it usually falls into two categories: people that don't like to read poetry and listen to it and people who love it and so this poem is sort of dedicated to all of those people which I guess is everybody.

Why You Don't Like Reading Poetry, And Why You Do

Why you don't:

You think about reading a poem, then decide not to, then decide to.

You are disappointed the poem didn't begin as you hoped, but you decide to stay with it.

However, the second stanza leaves you feeling edgy and restless.

Like the time in Cumberland Park when a chipmunk came up and just stared at you, only a couple feet away, and you thought it might dart up your pant leg. And then you tried to imagine how that would feel and what you might have to do to get a crazed chipmunk out of your pants, because those pointy teeth and needle-claws dig into your flesh and denim. And the chipmunk, which might have rabies, is delirious with panic, emitting high-pitched chirps, because this pant leg doesn't look or smell like any hollow log he's ever been in, which is where he thought he was going and now there's something beating on him so he starts biting and clawing and chewing the soft core of this log that's unlike any log he's ever seen.

And then you realize you're still reading the poem, but now it seems much less interesting than what's going on in your head.

So you skip to the end. And by doing that, the poem doesn't make much sense.

This is why you don't like reading poetry.

On the other hand:

Most of us wait months and months to take a special trip, which is over in a rush and then we're forced to wait months and months again for the next jaunt. But there's one way you can go to places you've never been before, and it can happen instantly.

What is this magical conveyance? Poetry. You've heard of a one or two car garage. Well, imagine an "infinity garage," filled with every type of vehicle ever invented or ever dreamed of, all ready to take you anywhere at a moment's notice. A poem can be a mellow drift in a rowboat or a fast blur in a sleek jet plane. A poem can be as silly as a pogo stick or as powerful as a tank bristling with armaments. A poem can float you up in clouds of love like a hot air balloon or plunge you into the depths of righteous anger like a submarine. A poem can toss you about like a roller coaster, making you happy and giddy, or it can take you into the hushed interior of a black limousine to quiet and reflective places in times of sadness and loss.

So if you want an instant trip, just settle in at Tommy's with a spinach pie, a chocolate shake, and a book of poems. In a matter of seconds (with a haiku), or a couple minutes (with most verse), a poem can transport you.

This is why you love reading poetry.

Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "What an inspirational way to bring us in contact with poetry. Thank you so much. We're honored to have you be our poet laureate. With that, we move on to the real business of City Hall. My first thing is to ask the City Manager for her report."

### **Report of the City Manager**

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. Before I start my report, I would just ask if our outgoing poet laureate and our incoming poet laureate wouldn't mind sharing those poems with us for the minutes. It might help."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Oh, absolutely. I need the one on vacant land personally."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you very much. This evening I would like to request permission to receive qualifications from firms for the development of the Top of the Hill and I would like to make that a Matter of Record, Your Honor."

### **Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "And our Planning and Development Committee Chair, Councilwoman Dunbar."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, I would like to ask Councilmembers to support our City Manager's request to seek RFQs and RFPs for the Top of the Hill development."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Law Director, do we need a motion? A formal motion?"

Jim Juliano stated, "Yes, it's in motion."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Okay. That was a motion."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay and I need a second."

Vice Mayor Stein and Councilwoman Roe stated, "Second."

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

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

                  Nays:   None

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Madam City Manager."

Tanisha Briley stated, "That concludes my report this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, ma'am. The Director of Finance/Clerk of Council, this evening you have something for us?"

#### **Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council**

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: Big Greeks Gyro LLC., DBA Best Gyros, 2245 Lee Road and Basement, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118, NEW, D1, D2

Your Honor, I need to make this a Matter of Record."

#### **Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "All right. Thank you. This is being referred to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council."

Tom Raguz stated, "I have nothing else tonight, Your Honor."

#### **Community Relations and Recreation Committee**

Mayor Stephens stated, "All right. We don't need to make a vote on that, do we? All right. Moving right along to the committee reports. The Community Relations and Recreation Committee will have an appointee soon, but at this evening, I will serve as Chair of that and we have no report for it this evening except to say... oh, I did think of something. I participated in a program called WOW, Women Out Walking, and it is a phenomenal program. Please follow it on our web pages and, if you are interested, you can find walks to go on with your Mayor. Without further ado, the next committee is Finance Committee."



**Finance Committee**

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor. This committee does not have a report tonight."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Municipal Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe is Vice Chair of this Committee. Will you proceed with this?"

**Municipal Services Committee**

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. Tonight I present for first reading Ordinance Number 27-2016 (MS). This is an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Transition Agreement, Restatement for the Water Service Agreement for Direct Service, an Asset Transfer Agreement, and a Municipal Utility District Agreement with the City of Cleveland; and this is an emergency."

**First Reading**

Mayor Stephens stated, "This is our first reading for this ordinance, so there's no vote necessary for it. Thank you."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Next I have Resolution Number 28-2016 (MS). This is a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buick GMC of Beachwood for the acquisition of a full size pickup truck and an agreement with Best Truck Equipment Inc., for related accessories for the Public Works Department; also it provides compensation for that and is an emergency."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there a second for this motion?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

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

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

                  Nays:   None

**Resolution Passed**

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This one's in passage. Our next resolution, Councilwoman Roe."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Next I move Resolution Number 29-2016 (MS). This is a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buick GMC of Beachwood for the acquisition of a full size pickup truck and an agreement with Best Truck Equipment Inc., for related

accessories for the Public Works Department; provides compensation therefor; and it is also an emergency. I move the resolution.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Is there a second?”

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Would you call the roll please?”

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

Nays: None

**Resolution Passed**

Tom Raguz stated, “That’s six ayes, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. This resolution passes and your last resolution this evening.”

Councilwoman Roe stated, “I move Resolution Number 30-2016 (MS). This is a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Bob Ross Auto, Inc. for the acquisition of a full size pickup truck and an agreement with Best Truck Equipment Inc., for related accessories for the Public Works Department and providing compensation therefor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Do we have a second?”

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Would you call the roll please?”

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

Nays: None

**Resolution Passed**

Tom Raguz stated, “That’s six ayes, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. This roll passes as well. Is there anything else from the... on behalf of the Municipal Services Committee, Councilwoman Roe?”

Councilwoman Roe stated, “No, that completes my report.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Now we move on to Public Safety and Health Committee. Councilman Seren.”

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. For first reading only, I would like to introduce Ordinance Number 31-2016; an ordinance authorizing an agreement creating a Regional Council of Governments, pursuant to Ohio law, which shall establish and operate a joint Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") communications system for the dispatch of Police, Fire, and EMS services in and for the cities of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights, and other communities that may later join said Center. I offer this for first reading."

**First Reading**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We don't vote on anything on first reading and is there anything else from the committee this evening?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Certainly. I just wanted to urge any residents watching or residents in the audience, if you'd let your neighbors know that the full agreement is in the packet, is on the website, so feel free to take a look at the full agreement. Let us know if you have any comments and so there's more information there for you to peruse. So, thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We move on to Planning and Development Committee. Councilwoman Dunbar."

**Planning and Development Committee**

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Do you want to do the Committee of the Whole meeting this first?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Go ahead. Or should I do it?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "You should do it."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "All right. Sorry. There was a presentation made at the Committee of the Whole meeting this evening concerning amendments to the Bluestone Development plan that were approved by the Planning Commission last Wednesday. Based on that presentation and staff's recommendations, I move to approve the amendments to the development guidelines for the JCC Redevelopment Plan Development Overlay District that were presented to and approved by the Planning Commission on April 13, 2016."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Do I have a second to that motion?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

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

Nays: None

**Resolution Passed**

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Any comments that you'd like to make?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, just one thing, maybe two. One, there's a spelling bee this Wednesday evening and your City has a team participating in it. It's a benefit to Reaching Heights. I encourage you all to go. It's going to be at Wiley at 7:00 and it's always a fun event with lots of teams eager to support Reaching Heights which does a number of good things for our schools, particularly in the area of music education, but anyway, turn out on Wednesday night please.

Also, I should say that we're coming up on Bicycle Month, so I'll have a lot to say next week."

Mayor Stephens stated, "A commercial for Bicycle Week. Okay, thank you Councilwoman Dunbar. Administrative Services Committee is next and that would be you, Councilwoman Roe."

**Administrative Services Committee**

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Yes, Your Honor. This evening I would like to approve the nomination of Michael Gaynier to serve on the Planning Commission. Michael Gaynier will fill out the appointment of our newest Councilmember, so he will be filling a six-year term which expires on 12/31/18."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second to this motion?"

Councilman Ungar and Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

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

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

                  Nays:   None

**Resolution Passed**

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

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

Councilwoman Roe stated, "No, that concludes my report. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. That brings us to the Mayor's Report."

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stephens stated, "It was a short week it felt like. I don't know where it went last week. It just kind of flew by. Time has a way of doing that. It also has a way to make us reflect. This weekend I went to my 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. I cheated. I got there early. I was an early graduate. My principal didn't like me, but that didn't matter because I had the grades to graduate early, so I finished high school when I was 16 and went on to college because I thought that was a better use of my time. He laughed at me. I don't think that there's any better use of my time than being on City Council here in Cleveland Heights and that's what I reflected on as I drove home from Dayton, Ohio.

I want to thank the people of Cleveland Heights for allowing me to serve them. I think everyone here feels that same way. We're very appreciative of your support for us, especially recently, and your ongoing willingness to engage with us and volunteer your opinions to us and so, without further ado, I will come to the conclusion that I do every night. Thank you all for allowing us to serve and God bless Cleveland Heights. This is the conclusion of our meeting on Monday, April 18. Our next Council meeting is Monday, May 2, 2016."

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

---

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw