

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:35 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo.

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

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

Councilwoman Yasinow moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss with an attorney for the public body, claims or disputes involving the public body that, in the judgment of such attorney, appear likely to be the subject of a future claim at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roe. Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

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

Councilwoman Yasinow moved to end the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dunbar. Executive Session concluded at 7:14 p.m.

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

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 8:10 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016. I'm sorry that we're meeting a little late this evening, but we had a tax hearing and so we are... our budget hearing for our taxes, which means that we're looking at our annual income and expenses and what we have to depend on for the next year. With that, I'd like to call the roll at this time, Mr. Raguz."

Ayes: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Ungar, Yasinow

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We have no members to excuse. Were there changes that needed to be done to the minutes? Have our regular scribes edited and passed them to Mr. Raguz?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Mr. Raguz has my corrections."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. At this time, before we go to the personal communications from citizens, I want to have a communication to our residents from a member of Council. Several weeks ago, maybe three, Councilwoman Yasinow and I had a conversation about dialogue that the City and Cleveland.com and the City of Lakewood had entered into and the outcome of our dialogue and conversation was that we wanted to step out and say that cities don't fight. Cities try to work together; sometimes learn from each other; sometimes share, but they don't fight about their residents and which one is better, which one is smarter. That's like two kids in a family: you might think you're smarter than your brother or your sister, but you don't always go public with that. It's only mom you tell that to and in this day and age in our communities, it's time to work together. So, without further ado, Councilwoman Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Mayor Stephens. This was just to address a series of articles in Cleveland.com comparing and contrasting the City of Cleveland Heights and the City of Lakewood. Rather than going into the details of what we think is better about which place or why, we wanted there to be a statement of unity that we think that the City of Cleveland Heights is a wonderful place for people to live, work and play and likewise, we think the same of our sister city Lakewood as well. This is not a competition between us. I believe also we've shown throughout the years that we are communities that are dedicated to regionalism, that we are cities dedicated to progressive values, to strength, diversity, growth and that together we stand together stronger than apart, so I'm going to take a moment and to read a brief statement that the Mayors of both cities have signed off on and I know, were also personally approved by all members at the very least of this Council.

The Cities of Cleveland Heights and Lakewood have had a partnership with the other inner ring suburbs for many years. Eighteen inner ring suburbs joined together in the First Suburbs Consortium and have shared ideas, and solutions to the unique challenges and hardships faced by inner ring communities since the economic downturn.

In particular, Cleveland Heights and Lakewood have shared and worked together, in part because our communities are so similar. We both have unique and historic housing, and our shared success in the preservation and improvement of these homes for their second century is a worthy goal.

We each benchmark programs the other offers to guide our improvement. We both have vibrant commercial districts, we both have a longstanding appreciation of the arts, and most importantly we both have involved citizens who care about their community.

Our communities are not in competition. The strength of each inner ring suburb supports the vitality of the other and ultimately influences the success of the region. Creating a checklist of which community is better in certain categories diminishes the positives of each community and detracts from our collective success. Cleveland Heights and Lakewood are proud to be vibrant and proactive inner ring suburbs reflective of the richness of our communities.

We intend to continue to work together in partnership to benefit one another for the collective good of our individual cities and the region as a whole.

So, to any residents of Cleveland Heights or Lakewood or frankly, of any other community in Northeast Ohio, we welcome collaboration, cooperation and partnership. We are not a city in competition with any other and to the extent these articles have I guess tried to draw distinction between us, I just simply say that if anything, I think it has brought a commitment on the City of Cleveland Heights to work even harder and stronger and greater with our neighbors, with our other inner ring suburbs and to be an even more proactive member of First Suburbs. So, thank you very much.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you, Councilwoman Yasinow. Any comments from my colleagues? With that, we’ll move on to see if there are personal communications from any of our residents. This evening, we don’t have any comments. All right. The report of the City Manager.”

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, “I have nothing to report this evening, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. The report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council. Mr. Raguz.”

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 & Patios, 2245 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118, Transfer, D3, permits from Got Gyros LLC, DBA Best Gyros & Patios, 2245 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

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

Matter of Record

Mayor Stephens stated, “It’s made a Matter of Record and referred to Public Safety and Health Committee of Council.”

Tom Raguz stated, “I have nothing else to report tonight, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Now we move on to the committee reports. Let’s move forward to Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Councilman Stein.”

Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee

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

Mayor Stephens stated, “Okay. Next we go to the Finance Committee and before we actually have our resolution there, I’d like to appoint Councilman Michael Ungar as Chair of Finance Committee and Councilman Jason Stein as Chair of Community Relations and Recreation Committee. That switch in roles was made at the request of those two Councilmen and from here on out, Councilman Ungar will be

taking the lead on financial issues and Councilman Stein will be guiding us on Community Relations and Recreation issues. Thank you, gentleman. Councilman Ungar.”

Report of the Finance Committee

Councilman Ungar stated, “Thank you, Mayor Stephens. I’m pleased to put forward for a second reading Resolution Number 56-2016 (F) which is a resolution approving the adoption of the 2017 Tax Budget which, for those that may be interested in seeing it, is on file with the Clerk of Council, Mr. Raguz and also declaring an emergency.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Do I have a second?”

Councilwoman Roe and Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Any comments before we vote? Okay. Would you call the roll please?”

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

 Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “Seven ayes, Your Honor.”

Resolution Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. The legislation for Resolution on second reading of the 2017 Tax Budget has been approved. Is there anything else from the Finance Committee?”

Councilman Ungar stated, “No, thank you.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Municipal Services Committee.”

Report of the Municipal Services Committee

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Nothing to report this evening, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Planning and Development Committee.”

Report of the Planning and Development Committee

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “I have no legislation tonight and there’s so many things going on in this community that it’s impossible to note them all. However, I would say since I’m on the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership Board, that there is a hike coming up to understand some of the streambeds that are buried all over Cleveland and that’s going to be July 30, 2:00 – 4:00 at Sam Miller Park on East Boulevard, East 88th Street and it’s going to be all about those brooks that are buried under the street and are part of our heritage now. So, if you are interested in that, go do it, but all of the business districts are having events ongoing and in addition, there’s Cain Park, so there’s plenty to do in this community. Look around and enjoy it all as much as you can.”

Mayor Stephens stated, "Go to our website."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Go to our website."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Public Health and Safety. Councilman Seren."

Report of the Public Health and Safety Committee

Councilman Seren stated, "Well, I have no legislation. I would like to make just a very brief comment about some of the, what we spoke about earlier and our public comment today was and I just want to point out that I really welcome and encourage residents and my colleagues to think about innovative things that we can be doing in the realm of things like code enforcement so that we can sort of take our protection of our housing stock to the next level and investment in housing stock to the next level. I'm really looking forward to meeting this challenge and so I encourage any idea that you have. Bring it to me so that we can vet them and figure out what the best course of action is. Thank you. That's all."

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

Report of the Administrative Services Committee

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Yes, Mayor, I have two appointments. The first is – I move to appoint Keba Sylla to the Fair Practices Board for term to end December 2017."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Can we have a...?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Second."

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

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

 Nays: None

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

Appointment Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Mr. Sylla is appointed to this board."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "And second – I move that we appoint Mike Gaynier to the Master Plan Steering Committee to replace Councilman Ungar who was on that group."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "I'll second. I'll second that and note I can't think of a better replacement."

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

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

Nays: None

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

Appointment Passed

Mayor Stephens stated, "These two gentlemen both said, 'Pick me,' earlier this year when they volunteered to serve in one of the ultimate community forms of community service on City Council. We couldn't refuse their willingness to serve and so we're asking them to serve in a slightly different way and we're delighted they're willing to come on to these two different committees. With that, is there anything else, Councilwoman Roe, from your committee?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "No."

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. That brings us to the Mayor's report. That means that this evening is almost over. I want to let you know that one of the most important things that we started out at the beginning of the year was to, as a Council, to agree on a series of committees that would help us improve transparency and engage residents in activities which would help us take action and so, with the Master Planning activities, we know that we'll get a wealth of ideas from the joint venture of the City of Cleveland Heights with Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and so the E.D. Committee is the first committee to take place. Under the leadership of Gary Benjamin on Wednesday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall – that's two evenings from today – they will have their first meeting and the staff from the County Planning Commission will be helping them kick it off. I had a brief conversation with the Director and he agrees with me that sometimes when they do their wonderful plans, that they come up with these really, really long lists and they include everything that could possibly be done. So, he was delighted to tell us or guide us in ways that would help us pick the highest priority things from his perspective and opinion and experiences. So, we're delighted to have him at the first kickoff of the sessions. If you're interested in attending and you're out there watching us in a day or two, please be sure to come. It's a public meeting and there'll be something on the board downstairs to tell you where they're at in the building.

Next, on Friday on last week, staff attended... no, actually was it Tuesday or Wednesday? We had a dialogue with merchants and property owners from the Cedar Lee area. As you know, Lee Road is under major improvements. This time next year, we won't remember that we were under construction and the street will be smooth and we'll have improvements to the streetscape and hopefully everyone will be very happy, but right now, it's a character building episode specifically because of people having the four-laned street narrowed down to two lanes and with the construction machinery and equipment on either side of the street. So, a couple of requests were made of us by the merchants and property

owner representatives and so, as a team, we're going to be giving free parking the end of every month to encourage everyone to shop and be entertained at the movie theater or the restaurants in the Cedar Lee district. We will also be working with them on valet parking stations. We want to make sure that during the construction that no one's business goes out of business. They are primarily very important to the life of that district and so we'll continue to work with them and listen to their ideas on how to stay engaged and for them to operate well. For those of you who are looking for a deal, there's no better deal than free parking that last weekend of the month of Cedar Lee.

On a sad note, over the last two weeks, this country has been in turmoil. As a Mayor of one of the largest cities in Ohio and in Cuyahoga County, with one of the largest Police Forces in our county, I have major concerns. On the morning that I heard that there was a loss of life in Dallas, my stomach dropped. There is no greater service than public service. Those of us on Council believe that and the service that our Safety Forces provide to us – everyday they take their hands into... their lives into their hands whether they're in a fire engine or EMS squadron car, going someplace where the floor might fall out from underneath of them in a fire or whether they're stepping out of a car just to check and tell someone their tags are expired or there's a light that's been damaged, they could lose their life getting out of that car and for that, we are eternally respectful. From this Council and we want to... want our staff to know that they are... we respect you and we care for you and the service you give us is even more important than the service we give which we are proud of and we're proud that Cleveland Heights has a good record of service to the community. We will be entering into dialogue later this summer. We will have a forum that discusses some of the issues. Race is not easily or comfortably discussed in this country, but this is a community of open, outspoken people and we face things that sometimes are difficult for us to discuss at every level and so, stay tuned to be respectful, I also want to remind you that one of the fun nights with our Police officers and our Firefighters is August 3 where we... it's the Night Out, so look forward to that in under three weeks and continue to talk with us and to respect our officers as they serve in a variety of ways. On that note, I'd like to ask the Lord to bless America and God bless Cleveland Heights because we need all the blessings we can get in this tumultuous time in this country. Thank you and good evening. Our next meeting will be Monday, August 1."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw