

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:30 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, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Wong

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m. and Executive Session was held after the City Council meeting.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:40 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening. Welcome to Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, Monday, August 1, 2016. This is our regular Council meeting. We're starting a few minutes late, but we had a few issues to discuss. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll for us please?"

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

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. No members to excuse. Minutes from our Council meeting on July 18 – were there any corrections or additions? And you have them all, Mr. Raguz? Thank my colleagues for doing that for us and we have now our standard time for personal communication from our residents or anyone else who comes to town to share their thoughts or ideas with us. Is there anyone who would like to speak to City Council this evening? Good. Ma'am, if you would come forward at the microphone. Remember to give us your name, address and speak for three minutes or less."

"Generally I don't need a microphone. My voice generally carries, but my name is Dee Spence. I've been a resident of Cleveland Heights, well, I've owned property here for almost 20 years and I do have some concerns. The Police and the Fire Department – they do a magnificent job. They are truly to be commended, but there are issues that... mainly one. I own an apartment building which means I have tenants and the bikers on Noble at all times of the day or night, ungodly hours, zoom, zoom, zoom. One tenant moved and I have a new tenant in. She's now complaining. So, I'm wondering and I've met with the police, Sergeant Mack – I don't know that he's Sergeant – I may have just promoted him, but nonetheless, I know him personally because he's come to address other issues I've had and I mentioned, we already have a noise ordinance. Why can't we put some teeth in that ordinance? Because when I first bought that building, you couldn't drive down Noble if you had a busted muffler without being cited by the police and I'd like to see some of those efforts reinstated. So, I don't know what it takes. I'm

definitely willing to do my part. My building sits on the corner of Vineshire and Noble. They can park in my parking lot. I mean whatever makes it easy for them to address this problem because it has become a big one. I mean if I don't have tenants, I can't pay my mortgage which means I can't pay my taxes and everybody knows what that means. So, another thing, there's a problem house on Noble. The hedges are about eight feet tall. I look at my kitchen window and they're waving at me and I've called the Housing Director twice and nothing's happened. So, and I know he's new, I worked with Rick Wagner who knew me very well."

Mayor Stephens stated, "What's the address of the house, Dee?"

Dee Spence stated, "I beg your pardon."

Mayor Stephens stated, "What's the address of the house?"

Dee Spence stated, "Let me share this. 2435 is the apartment building across the street from the house. If you're driving down Noble between Yellowstone and Pembroke, you can't miss it. It's on the north side... on the south side of the street... on the west side. I'm sorry

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Across from 2345?"

Dee Spence stated, "No, 2435. That's the name of the problem building behind me. I won't get into that today but if we can address the bikers and these hedges and the owner lives in Cleveland Heights. He has additional properties, but it's a big problem. One other thing - there's been a big hole on Vineshire. That address is 9080 Vineshire. The cones have been there for two months. It has a steel plate over the hole. Kids play around there all the time, but it's unsightly and inconvenient to drive down Noble. It's going west, east, you gotta, I'm mean, I'm sorry, west and... east and west. You've got to, you know, move around and God forbid there should be cars parked on the street so enough of my complaints, but if those issues could be addressed, I'd be ever so grateful - especially the bikers. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Yes ma'am, in the back row. I saw a hand."

Gail Larson stated, "Good evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening."

Gail Larson stated, "Gail Larson from Noble Neighbors and my personal street is Montevista 3797. We are working with the city and we're very happy with the progress we're making on finding out what's going on with these houses that are empty and have been empty for years on our streets. Just this last week, two houses down from me at 3789 Montevista, a sign showed up for a company - a real estate company called hubzoo.com and I just bring this your attention so that if you hear that name or something comes up in discussions, they're an online auction realtor and we're very worried about any families if they're selling a house for \$26,000, so it's a really good deal, but there's a lot of stuff that needs to be done. It was a rental and it's been foreclosed and the bank apparently asked hubzoo to auction it off. We've looked at the website. It doesn't look like there's a lot of time for point of sale

transaction or inspection. So we're hoping that at least the people who are looking at it have their own realtor to be represented and they don't get stung with a bunch of costs of repair they had no idea about. I just want to bring it to your attention. I do not expect any action, but we're going to see what happens."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you for eyes on the neighborhood. Is there anything else anyone else would like to share with us this evening? If there's no one else you'd like to speak to... Oh yes, ma'am. Welcome. Your name and address please."

Miss White stated, "Miss White, 1620 Lee Road. I'm coming with concerns. I'm sure the police knows who I am and every time I come and I did speak about this issue. The city manager would say she would be glad to talk with me about that after the meeting. Of course, I haven't talked to anyone. However, my concern is about the people that have businesses and the landlord does not supply parking for them where other businesses' landlord does supply parking. And I'm wondering, if we have a couple of businesses that have a mass of clients which is good. I want any business to flourish because I want my clients to come, so that's separate, but I have continuously had problems with the building adjacent to where I work stealing my parking. The police are very good like Miss Dee said. They come out and accommodate what the violations when they park unauthorized. We had to buy parking passes to identify our clients and those people are coming in with irate attitudes. They're coming with unbecoming behavior to the businesses and I've been a resident here as well as worked in this area and I'm feeling intimidated and bullied and it's going on every day. You could scream and a violent person would have taken care of it themselves and I need somebody there to take my problem seriously. And I don't know what Council is for or the Mayor is for the City Manager or what your job titles are, but I have been complaining about this problem for years. Pete and George who own The Knotty Pine used to come out and have to park his car across the lot so that his customers could come in for a beer and a burger and at first I used to didn't understand Mr. Pete. I became very fond of him and I began to tell him to be careful out there because the neighborhood is changing. You have different personalities.

My kids tease me because they say I have Knotty Pine's torch now because we have to police the parking lot. My tenant... my landlord supplies parking for me. I need Cleveland Heights City Hall to look a little deeper about my concern because I try to uphold the character and the integrity of the community. If I don't build, I'm trying to maintain, so that means that I'm not trying to tear it down. So, I feel that somebody somewhere should listen to my problem and do something about these absentee landlords that rent to these people, give them three months free rent or don't do a background check and just let them infiltrate the neighborhood that I raise my kids in and that I live in, so I just need somebody to give me some help with this problem here. I have talked to Officer Mack. I have been given bogus solutions. I have been shunned here and shunned there. Somebody even emailed me a couple of times. This lady asked me to even meet in their building about our parking and then I said - why would I meet with them about the parking that I'm paying for? They're the one they don't have parking, but she

never emailed me back. I have sent this email probably to a lot of you guys if you took the time to read it, but I can send it out again. It is still on my... with these concerns about the parking. I work at 1620 Lee Road behind Cleveland Injury Centers. I work in Positive Image Hair Studio next door to Happy Hours. The people adjacent have been a problem probably to the people before me, but problems should be solved. It's time to solve the problem and I thank you for your ear."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak to Council this evening? Ma'am. Mrs. White, is it? Can we get a telephone number from you for – if you could give it to one of – Susanna...so you don't have to put it on record for everyone. Next we have a report from the City Manager."

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

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. This evening I have two items to report. The first being I would like to request permission to go to bid for the 2017 Cedar Road Resurfacing and Cedar Fairmount Streetscape Project and I would like to make this a Matter of Record."

### **Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "This is a Matter of Record and referred to the Municipal Services Committee."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much. I move to authorize the City Manager to go to bid for the 2017 Cedar Road Resurfacing / Cedar Fairmount Streetscape."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Mr. Raguz, 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."

### **Authorization Granted**

Mayor Stephens stated, "You have received full authority to go to bid. Is there anything else?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes, Your Honor, one remaining item. I would like to request permission to issue a request for proposal for energy savings performance contracting services and I would like to state that a notice of the request for proposals will be posted on the City's website and a newspaper of circulation and I would like to make this a Matter of Record."

Mayor Stephens stated, "We'll refer this to the Municipal Services Committee as well."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor I hereby move to give the City Manager permission to issue a request for proposal for energy savings performance contracting services."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

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."

#### **Authorization Granted**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Mrs. Briley, you have received authority to move forward with energy savings performance requests for proposals. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us this evening?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "No, Your Honor, just I'm happy to be celebrating my third anniversary as City Manager of this most wonderful city in all of the world."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you and congratulations. The report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council."

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

Tom Raguz stated, "I need to notify Council that two resolutions of the Board of Zoning Appeals have been received pertaining to variances in the zoning code and is requested by the following:

- BZA Cal. No. 3400: Augustus Beck, 1955 Coventry Road, to permit a 25-foot by 69-foot basketball court with approximately 50% of the court in the corner side yard with a 13-foot-tall backboard behind the hoop and a 10-foot-tall ball containment unit set back 6.66 feet from the Coventry Road right-of-way in the corner side yard; and also
- BZA Cal. No. 3403: Samuel Gibson Ellen Malone. 2457 Demington Drive, to permit a 6-foot-tall wood fence in a corner side yard.

Your Honor, I would like to make these a Matter of Record."

#### **Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. These will be made a Matter of Record and referred to the Planning and Development Committee later in this agenda."

Tom Raguz stated, "I also need to notify Council that a notice has been received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control advising that application has been made by the following: Mayfield Coventry, Inc. 2879 Mayfield Road, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118, Transfer C1, C2 and D6 permits from 2879 Mayfield, Inc., 2879 Mayfield Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. I would like to also make this a Matter of Record."

**Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. That will be referred to Public Health and Safety Committee of Council later in this agenda."

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. That will be referred to Public Health and Safety Committee of Council later in this agenda. Now we'll go directly into the committee reports; first the Finance Committee. Mr. Ungar."

**Report of the Finance Committee**

Councilman Ungar stated, "Yes, I have a resolution appointing an Assessment Equalization Board to hear objections regarding the estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of improvements in streets and parkways including the grading, draining, curbing, paving, etc., removing snow and planning, maintaining and removing shade trees within the City of Cleveland Heights. I would move approval the resolution."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Do we have a second?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "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."

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This resolution 59-2016 is approved because of seven votes in favor of it. Mr. Ungar, your next one."

Councilman Ungar stated, "And the second is a request for approval of a resolution appointing an Assessment Equalization Board to hear of any objections regarding the estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of street lighting within the City of Cleveland Heights and I would move approval of that resolution."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Second."

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

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anything else for me this evening, Mr. Ungar?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Nope, that's it."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We move on to Municipal Services Committee."

**Report of the Municipal Services Committee**

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor. This is Resolution Number 61-2016. This is a resolution authorizing the amendment of the City's agreement with the County of Cuyahoga to perform certain services to help maintain the City's sanitary and storm sewers to increase the spending cap by \$325,000 and declaring an emergency. Whereby Resolution 1-2016, this Council authorized an agreement to retain the Cuyahoga County to perform services to maintain the City's sanitary and storm sewers and catch basins for the 2016 calendar year. Whereas the Director of Utilities has identified an additional project to improve a section of the City sewer system that may be funded by Community Development Block Grant funds in which for which the County services are needed and whereas said additional projects shall cost approximately \$325,000. I hereby recommend Resolution Number 61-2016 to be passed this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there second?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

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

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Resolution 61-2016 passes. Is there anything else for Municipal Services Committee this evening?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Just to congratulate Mac's Backs on a fantastic event celebrating the publication of the latest eighth "Harry Potter" book. Yeah, I am right now in the middle of it. It is fantastic."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Did you get started on Saturday?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I did not make it for the full Saturday night event, but I am right now reading *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Parts One and Two*."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I was afraid to get started in case I went to Slytherin."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Hey, that's not a bad thing at least in this book, and in addition, to continue with the nerdery, this upcoming Saturday is official Star Wars Celebration Day at the Coventry Village SID. I hope to see all the young padawans there."

Mayor Stephens stated, "There are nerds on this Council."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Yep."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Some of us are self-declared, didn't need our friends to tell us."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "You have a high midichlorian count."

Mayor Stephens stated, "There you go."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And that is everything from the Municipal Services Committee this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next we move to Planning and Development Committee. Before we move to the resolutions need to be reviewed by our chair, we need to enter into the BZA. I see smirks on my nerdy colleagues' faces. We need to move to the Board of Zoning Appeals activities. Councilman Seren."

**Report of the Planning and Development Committee**

Councilman Seren stated, "All right. I move that we approve the resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals Calendar Number 3400. Augustus Beck, 1955 Coventry Road, to permit a 25-foot by 69-foot basketball court with approximately 50% of the court in the corner side yard with a 13-foot-tall

backboard behind the hoop and a 10-foot-tall ball containment unit set back 6.66 feet from the Coventry Road right-of-way in the corner side yard.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Is there a second?”

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “Second.”

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

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, “Calendar Number 3400 of the Board of Zoning Appeals for resolution by Council passes unanimously. There’s another resolution for this evening, Mr. Seren?”

Councilman Seren stated, “Yes. I move that we approve the Resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals Calendar Number 3403. Samuel Gibson Ellen Malone at 2457 Demington Drive, to permit a 6-foot-tall wood fence in a corner side yard.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Is there a second?”

Councilman Ungar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll please?”

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Resolution 3403 of the Board of Zoning Appeals passes City Council. Now we move to the Chair of Planning and Development Committee, Mrs. Dunbar.”

**Report of the Planning and Development Committee**

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Tonight I have Resolution Number 62-2016; a resolution authorizing renewal agreements with Franklin Piccirillo for design and construction oversight services and Carolyn R. Smith for coordinating consulting services for the City's Storefront Renovation Program, providing compensation therefore and declaring an emergency. For over twenty years, the City has operated a Storefront Renovation Program to encourage reinvestment and create positive visual and

economic impact in its commercial districts. This program is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. Mr. Piccirillo and Miss Smith wish to continue to offer their professional services to consult for the program which has expanded to include larger more complex projects which warrant additional consultant compensation. These are professional services for which no bidding is necessary. This resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into a renewal of the agreement with Franklin Piccirillo and the rate is \$6,000 per project for a term of five years with a total fee during this term not to exceed the sum of \$150,000. It also authorizes the City Manager to enter into a renewal of the agreement with Carolyn R. Smith for coordinating consulting services for the City's Storefront Renovation Program at a rate of \$50 per hour up to \$4,000 per project for a term of five years with a total fee during this term not to exceed \$50,000. I move that Council approve Resolution Number 62-2016."

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

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Mr. Raguz, 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. Resolution 62-2016 passes. Councilman Dunbar, is there anything else you'd like to share with us this evening?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I would like to mention that on Sunday, August 7 from noon to 5:00, Cedar Fairmount is having their Annual Summer Festival which features the rocket car, music and other events, so this should be a wonderful event. It always is; and I also want to call particular attention to the display in the window front of Appletree Books because I spent my afternoon there decorating it for the Heights Bicycle Coalition, so it's a really spectacular. Please notice it and Appletree Books is doubling their size. They seem to be doing very well, so anyway, go to Cedar Fairmount on Sunday and have a good time."

Mayor Stephens stated, "So I thought you had a business degree not a design degree."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I was just there helping put things up. I was not the creative genius on this."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Dunbar. Next we have Public Safety and Health Committee. Councilman Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I move that we adopt, rather approve, Resolution Number 63-2016; a resolution objecting to the renewal of all current liquor permits issued by the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to 5855 East Glen, Incorporated doing business as Shillelagh's at 2555 Noble Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121 and requesting that a hearing on the issue of renewal be held in Cuyahoga County, Ohio."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. 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."

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Resolution 63-2016 passes. This is an absolutely unanimous resolution by the City Council recommending to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that this bar be closed permanently, no more temporary restraining orders or anything like that. Next, we have a Resolution 64-2016. Councilman Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to move that this Council approve Resolution Number 64-2016; a resolution objecting to the renewal of all current liquor permits issued by the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to Reginald Johnson, dba The Sunny Spot Lounge at 2204 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44112 and requesting that a hearing on the issue of renewal be held in Cuyahoga County, Ohio."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Councilman Ungar. 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."

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This resolution passes. Resolution 65-2016. Councilman Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I move that we approve Resolution Number 65-2016 objecting to the renewal of all current liquor permits issued by the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to Fitzdunn LLC., dba Helen's Game Time, 3962 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121 and requesting that a hearing on the issue of renewal be held in Cuyahoga County, Ohio."

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

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

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

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This resolution passes. Councilman Seren, any final words?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I have nothing left."

Mayor Stephens stated, "These three resolutions are important to the neighborhoods in each location where these businesses are located. They have not been good neighbors. They have operated noisily. Their clientele has been disruptive to the home ownership as well as to the people who rent units in the immediate vicinity of them. We have numerous complaints from each of these properties from residents in the area and we're going to do the best we can and make the strongest opposition to the renewal of their licenses that we can as a City Council. Without further ado, let's move to Administrative Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe.

**Report of the Administrative Services Committee**

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Thank you. I have two ordinances that have to do with requests from the County Board of Elections in terms of, after some review of our election procedures in Cleveland Heights. First is Ordinance Number 66-2016. This is an ordinance directing the Clerk of Council to submit to the Board of Elections amendments to Article Seven of the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights for placement on the November ballot. This overall - what this would do - is would eliminate existing possible ambiguity concerning the means in which a person may come become a candidate for our City Council and also it is... would put us in compliance with federal laws about elections. I so move."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Councilman Seren. Mr. Raguz."

"Mayor, could I?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "Yes, you'd like to make a comment?"

Councilman Seren stated, "I would like to make a comment."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay."

Councilman Seren stated, "I just wanted to congratulate this Council on doing something. We were asked by the Board of Elections to make some changes that would make their lives easier and, of course, doing that and making the Board of Elections do its job a little bit better is always a good idea, but one thing I wanted to congratulate this Council on was - by adjusting the period of time that petitions can be signed, we, I think, did a great deal toward making it a little bit easier for people to engage in the democratic process as candidates. I believe that in all likelihood, I can't speak to the motivations of the people who designed the system in the first place, but having only 30 days to have your petition filled out really closed off that particular method of engaging in democracy for some people who either don't have the infrastructure in place or the name recognition in place or the time because they have a full-time job to deal with, makes it more difficult to become a candidate and become a part of the democratic process in the City and so I just really want to applaud my colleagues for expanding that period of time to a 90-day period of time instead of a 30 day."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Anyone else? Mr. Raguz."

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

Nays: None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "This Resolution Number 66, I'm sorry, Ordinance Number 66-2016 passes. The next Ordinance Number 67-2016. Councilwoman Roe."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "This is an ordinance directing the Clerk of Council to submit to the Board of Elections amendments to Article Eight of the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights for placement on the November ballot. Again, this was another suggestion from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections to assist them in meeting the requirements in terms of you know for many with other men met municipalities and specifically, this addresses our municipal initiative referendum and recall deadline requirements."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Councilman Roe. Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

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

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

Nays: None

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

### **Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This resolution passes and now we have done what we need to do to get in compliance with the Board of Elections. Next we have Community Relations and Recreation Committee."

### **Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee**

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

Mayor Stephens stated, "Oh, Councilman... Vice Mayor Stein, that makes life very simple for us. Next is the Mayor's report. This is going to be a short report as well."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Excellent."

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stephens stated, "One of the good things we did this, within the last couple of weeks, was that the Economic Development Committee - that is an advisory group to City Council - started its work. The seven members met for the first time. Staff support was the City Manager and Councilwoman Dunbar and myself. We're off to a pretty good start. Everyone was present. We have a variety of ideas and support. This is to help this Council be more transparent and to focus in on the things that we need to do to make ourselves healthier, stronger and hopefully wealthier. In addition, for those of us who are engaged in the political process, both major parties had their national conventions and we saw good and bad at both of them and we learned good and bad from both of them, but it's important that we continue the political dialogue; that as long as we're Americans, we begin to and continue to talk to each other about what we believe in and why we believe it and why, especially at the local level, all things are important to the elected officials - to listen to people, to engage with them and never to think that their ideas are too small or too big for us; and so this Council continues to listen and continues to learn and continues to try and work with its residents. Remember we're not perfect. We're just like you. Some things fall through the cracks for us and some things we get done sooner than you want them to, but because this is America, we get to continue to work and try and get it right. So, thank you for your support as a community as we continue to work and try and get things right and make things always

better and our future always better. As usual, God bless America and God bless Cleveland Heights. Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, September 6, 2016.”

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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 8:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dunbar. Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

Councilwoman Roe moved to end the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Yasinow.

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

Executive Session concluded at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

---

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw