

City Council for the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, held a Committee Meeting of the Whole on the above date at 6:33 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo.

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

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Sabin, Trupo

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:34 p.m., Mayor Stephens and Mayor Roe presiding.

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

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Sabin, Trupo

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to the City Council meeting, the very first one of 2018. Today is Tuesday, January 2, 2018. This is our regularly scheduled Council meeting as our charter instructs us to meet the first business day of the year each year. In this year, because it is a year where we had elections, we will also not only be having the report of the Clerk on the November elections, but we will also have a choice for Mayor and Vice Mayor this evening. So, we will report elections and have elections and with that, I ask that the Clerk report the results of the election on November 17, 2017 which was for Stein, Stephens, Ungar and Yasinow. Madam Clerk."

Laurie Sabin stated, "I have received the results from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Jason S. Stein, Cheryl Stephens, Michael N. Ungar and Melissa Yasinow were elected as Council members at the election held on November 7, 2017."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, at this point in time so that we're legal since four of our terms have expired, we will swear members of Council in in alphabetical order. So, the first Councilmember to be sworn in is Councilman Jason Stein. Who will be representing you with holding the Bible and giving the oath for you this evening?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "That will be my son, Avi. He's the fifth in line so this is his turn to hold the Bible and up with me will be my wife Shimona, my oldest son Eli, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Avi, my daughters Leah and Hannah and our Law Director Jim Juliano will be swearing me in."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "My cousins Saul and Ezra also."

Jim Juliano stated, "Jason, repeat after me. I, Jason S. Stein."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "I, Jason S. Stein."

Jim Juliano stated, "Solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution and laws."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and laws."

Jim Juliano stated, "Of the United States of America."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Of the United States of America."

Jim Juliano stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Jim Juliano stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Jim Juliano stated, "And that so long as I continue."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "And that as long as I continue."

Jim Juliano stated, "To hold a position as Councilmember."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "To hold a position as Councilmember."

Jim Juliano stated, "I will honestly."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Honestly."

Jim Juliano stated, "Faithfully."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Faithfully."

Jim Juliano stated, "And impartially."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "And impartially."

Jim Juliano stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Jim Juliano stated, "To the best of my ability."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "To the best of my ability."

Jim Juliano stated, "Congratulations."

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Congratulations. Next in alphabetical order is myself, Stephens. This evening, swearing me in - my father who traditionally swears me in is not in town this week. For some reason, he could not tear himself away from Southern California. The temperatures since he has to come into town later in the month for some surgery at one of our hospitals as opposed to one of those hospitals out on the West Coast, and so, swearing me in is somebody who I adopted her family and forced her to love me like a sister, State Representative Janine Boyd, and with her are a circle of friends who have started me out in this town and helped me grow and then some folks who are younger, and this circle includes Former Judge Sandra Walker who was the Judge of East Cleveland. She'll be holding the Bible this evening. Did I remember a Bible? Can we borrow a Bible? Too many things going on."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Always have the Bible."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And because my sister established wonderful relationships with her colleague in the House, State Representatives Stephanie House, she will be standing in support of me, as is Senator Sandra Williams. Okay, in addition, one of the groups that I have learned to be involved in and sought Council from this woman, Cynthia Dempsey has become a very good friend, someone who encourages me to think things through and to understand the great pieces of democracy and she's Chair of the Cuyahoga Women's Democratic Caucus. In addition, someone who became a friend before I understood the political issues that she was committed to is Kate Kennedy and she is the Vice President with the Stonewall Democrats and another close friend who developed in the last year is somebody young and new to the game and I want to encourage her and I want her to continue to stand by me and I want to continue to stand by her; and that's Gabriella Jackson, the Chair of the Northeast Ohio Young Black Dems. So, if you'll stand around me, ladies. We're not quite as many as Jason's kids, but I got adopted a lot as you can tell."

Representative Boyd stated, "Repeat after me please, Mayor Stephens. I solemnly swear that I will support."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I, Cheryl Stephens, solemnly swear that I will support."

Representative Boyd stated, "The Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Representative Boyd stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Representative Boyd stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Representative Boyd stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And that as long as I continue to hold a position."

Representative Boyd stated, "As Councilmember."

Mayor Stephens stated, "As Councilmember."

Representative Boyd stated, "I will honestly."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I will honestly."

Representative Boyd stated, "Faithfully and impartially."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Faithfully and impartially."

Representative Boyd stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Representative Boyd stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Stephens stated, "To the best of my ability."

Representative Boyd stated, "Congratulations."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next in alphabetical order is Michael Ungar. Michael, who will be holding your Bible and swearing you in?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "If she continues to agree to do it, my wife will hold the Bible. I'm honored that Judge Solomon Oliver of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio will be administering my oath. Hopefully, I will be able to cajole my sister, Edie, who is here, to come up, my brother Dan who is here to come up, his wife Marcy and my brother-in-law, Steve Shafron, to come up and join us because I want numbers up here.

Judge Oliver stated, "Raise your right hand and repeat after me. I."

Councilman Ungar stated, "I."

Judge Oliver stated, "Michael N. Ungar.

Councilman Ungar stated, "Michael N. Ungar."

Judge Oliver stated, "Do solemnly affirm."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Do solemnly affirm."

Judge Oliver stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Councilman Ungar stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Judge Oliver stated, "The Constitution."

Councilman Ungar stated, "The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "And laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilman Ungar stated, "And laws of the State of Ohio."

Judge Oliver stated, "The charter and ordinances."

Councilman Ungar stated, "The charter and ordinances."

Judge Oliver stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Judge Oliver stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position."

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

Judge Oliver stated, "As Councilmember."

Councilman Ungar stated, "As Councilmember."

Judge Oliver stated, "I will honestly."

Councilman Ungar stated, "I will honestly."

Judge Oliver stated, "Faithfully."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Faithfully."

Judge Oliver stated, "And impartially discharge."

Councilman Ungar stated, "And impartially discharge."

Judge Oliver stated, "The duties of that office."

Councilman Ungar stated, "The duties of that office."

Judge Oliver stated, "To the best of my ability."

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

Judge Oliver stated, "Congratulations."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Congratulations, Councilman Ungar. Next in alphabetical order, Councilwoman Yasinow, if you would tell us who is joining you at the podium today."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The whole second row. My husband, Matt Shupe, will be swearing me in. Bonnie Caplan will be holding the Bible and everyone else, come on up; my parents, my Aunt Svetlana, Lee, Rick, did I – partridge in a pear tree – okay, we're good."

Matt Shupe stated, "I, Melissa Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I, Melissa Yasinow."

Matt Shupe stated, "Solemnly swear that I will support."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Solemnly swear that I will support."

Matt Shupe stated, "The Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Matt Shupe stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Matt Shupe stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Matt Shupe stated, "And that so long as I continue."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And that as long as I continue."

Matt Shupe stated, "To hold a position as Councilmember."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "To hold a position as Councilmember."

Matt Shupe stated, "I will honestly."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I will honestly."

Matt Shupe stated, "Faithfully."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Faithfully."

Matt Shupe stated, "And impartially."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And impartially."

Matt Shupe stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Matt Shupe stated, "To the best of my ability."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Congratulations, Councilwoman Yasinow. Next we move to our bi-annual elections. I open the nomination floor for Office of President of Council/Mayor. Is there a nomination from the floor?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Yes, Mayor Stephens. Council colleagues, Madam City Manager, fellow Cleveland Heights residents and honored guests, it is my privilege and honor to nominate my Council colleague Carol Roe to be our next President of Cleveland Heights City Council and thus pursuant to Section 3-11 of our City Charter to, and I quote from the charter, 'also have the title of Mayor,' pursuant to our Council-Manager form of government. I do not make this nomination lightly."

Jim Juliano stated, "Mr. Ungar, I'm sorry to interrupt. Mayor, may I ask that you take the roll please, on the record?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Actually, Madam President, is there no discussion on the motion before the vote?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "We're calling the roll."

Mayor Stephens stated, "First we need to call the roll."

Councilman Seren stated, "Oh, our roll."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The roll call of Council members."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Yes, so that we go on the record as all being present. If the Clerk would call the roll please."

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

Laurie Sabin stated, "Thank you. All present"

Mayor Stephens stated, "All members are present. So, now, Councilman Ungar, if you would continue please."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Do I need to re-nominate?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "No."

Jim Juliano stated, “No. Well, did you? I don’t remember hearing you nominate. I heard you starting to nominate.”

Councilman Ungar stated, “I started with, ‘It is my privilege and honor to nominate my Council colleague, Carol Roe.’ Does that suffice?”

Jim Juliano stated, “Yes, sir.”

Councilman Ungar stated, “Okay. I’ll pick it up where I left off. I do not make this nomination lightly. I do not favor change for change’s sake, nor do I view this as a Council version of musical chairs. Rather, I do so with the earnest conviction that the election of Carol Roe to this role will help move our city forward in some very positive ways, and as a result of collaborative efforts, we will see prompt impacts in Cleveland Heights beginning with the composition, structure and efficiency of our meetings and the prompt identification and prioritization of Council’s policy initiatives as we enter 2018 together. I’ve had the opportunity to watch Carol in action. Just one small example – I don’t have time to give you a bunch of examples this evening – I had the privilege of serving as Vice Chair of the Administrative Services Committee. For those that follow what’s been going on in Council, you know it was a very active committee to say the least over the last year and a half or so, and it was one that Carol Roe very ably and capably chaired. I’ve watched her overcome obstacles and challenges and solve difficult problems and get important things done, again, quietly, efficiently and effectively which is her style. She’s got an understated, whatever it takes, team-oriented approach and that’s just what we need in this position. She recognizes that if elected Council President and Mayor this evening, she will remain on the legislative side of things and would serve as a first among equals. She understands that in a Council-Manager form of government form like we have, this body is the legislative body and that power is centralized in this Council which, for example, approves the budget, adopts local laws and focuses on developing the policies and priorities for our city which are then carried out by our City Manager Tanisha Briley and our wonderful staff comprised of truly dedicated public servants. She gets that as Council President and Mayor, one of her key roles will be to wring out the very best from all of us, both individually and collectively as a Council. We are a Council in my humble opinion comprised of folks with very different and, in many respects, highly complementary backgrounds, talents and perspectives. I believe that Carol will be able to marshal our diverse talents and challenge us to be even better, again both individually and collectively in working with our citizens and with our staff towards the betterment of this great city. Carol understands the need for positive communication between our elected officials and our appointed officials. That’s a key component to this job and I’m confident she will do it well. She’s an effective communicator. She isn’t afraid to take a stand and then stand her ground. She also isn’t afraid of disagreement. In fact, she welcomes it as she recognizes that disagreement and debate channeled in the right way help all of us make better decisions on behalf of our residents. Now, this is Cleveland Heights as you all know. So, the views of our residents matter and they matter a lot and they matter to Carol Roe and she wants to hear them. Simply put, she’s a phenomenal listener. Now, that may come frankly from some on-the-job training she’s received from Brenda May and our wonderful friends down there at Noble Neighbors or it may be from her tenure as a government relations specialist in Columbus or frankly it may just be part of her DNA, but no matter the reason, it’s a very important

trait when you're talking about the position we're talking about. Our city prides itself on heavy resident involvement and community decision making and thus, whoever occupies this position, must must be a good listener and we have that in Carol Roe and yes, indeed, for those that are wondering, my reference to Noble Neighbors was not an accident. It will be good, not just for the Noble area, but for our entire city to have a Mayor who knows what's happening in that wonderful and important area of our city because our neighborhoods are inter-dependent as everyone knows. What happens in one neighborhood affects us all and I've heard every single member of this Council articulate how important it is for us to pay close attention to our Noble Neighborhood. In a small, but hopefully significant way, by electing Carol Roe, herself a proud Noble Neighbor, we can translate those words of support into some real action. Now, before I conclude my nominating remarks, I want to be clear about one thing – nothing that I have said in support of Carol Roe this evening is intended as a criticism towards our current Mayor and Vice Mayor, Cheryl Stephens and Jason Stein, respectively. They have both served this city with distinction these past two years and their passion for Cleveland Heights and their commitment for Cleveland Heights has been evident to all throughout that time period. I am grateful to both for their talent and their leadership and look forward to continuing to serve with both of them, but I believe that and I hope I can be joined by my colleagues this evening, that the time is right in Cleveland Heights for a change and for some new direction where the 2018 Cleveland Heights City Council gets to work and sets the policies and priorities for the City of Cleveland Heights as we confront the many opportunities as well as the not insignificant challenges that our city faces. Thankfully, Carol is willing to step up and do this as she has told each of us in letting us know that she is, indeed, the person for this job. I agree and that is why I am nominating her for my colleagues' consideration and vote this evening. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "There is no second necessary for this nomination. I would like to take a moment of privilege at this point in time and speak to our community. It has been my honor to serve this city in multiple ways. I've sat at every side of the table, as staff, as a volunteer on Planning Commission and Visioning Committee and then as a member of Council and as Mayor. There is no community in America that I love more than Cleveland Heights and I've exhibited that by my service. Democracy is something in America that we hold dear and we believe that change is something that the people of our community make decisions about and, in our democracy in America, when we transition power, we do it with style and elegance and diplomacy and respect, and whether you supported the old administration, a different candidate or not, on the day of the transition of power, it is all done respectfully and with welcome arms to the change that will hopefully make our country better and stronger and therefore, our cities, when it happens at municipal level, better and stronger; and so, with that said, as I always said before and at the end of each meeting, 'God bless America and God bless Cleveland Heights. Madam Clerk would you call the roll?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Actually, Madam President, if I..."

Mayor Stephens stated, "A point of privilege?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Just a little more discussion before the motion is called. So, I, going back and forth on this question, you know, this isn't a concern about changing horses midstream or

anything cliché like that. And please forgive me, I'm under the weather, so if you can't hear me, I apologize. I just wanted to express some thoughts that I've had that I've gone over I guess over the past - I don't know how many months it's been. This has been, this shift, this impending shift, has been the worst kept secret in our local politics, but it's some concerns that I've had, well, I guess all year, I suppose all year, since our retreat in February. I know that this isn't the sort of thing that gets said in occasions like these most of the time, either, you know, things are screaming matches or they're unanimous ayes, you know, in governmental bodies like this, that's the norm and so I recognize that I'm probably all out on a limb all on my own again, but I feel a need to express sort of the thought process behind what my vote is going to be and I recognize and I certainly don't mean to imply that this has been in any statement or even implied to me about anything, but I also recognize that based on sort of the precedence of all human politics, there are potentially some ramifications, some personal political ramifications for me related to this vote, you know, various things that have gone through my head like perhaps not receiving committee assignments that are sort of perceived as my preference or, you know, in accordance with my skills and strong suits, you know, support for legislation. I've seen these things happen in legislative bodies where support for leadership is not given and other issues occur as a result. So, I'm not going into this unaware with my eyes closed, but I've had some concerns. You know, I could go along to get along, but I guess I'm not the go along to get along kind of guy, and so, the concerns that I've had over the course of 2017 has not been assuaged by what I have seen as some encouraging signs. The issues of transparency and sort of a commitment to open meetings and this historic contention on Council over the past year and, I think, as my colleague Mr. Ungar mentioned, there are maybe some fundamental disagreements about the role of the Council and how strong a Council should be, legislatively of course, how strong a Council should be in our system and I have been, you know, sort of going over this, over and over again, and I've been asked for support and I respect that and I appreciate that request. I also know that that request was completely unnecessary because nobody needs my support given the number in how this has worked out. So, I appreciate that, but I will say that in the face of the concerns that I have about the role of the Council, about how open we're going to be as we plot the future of Cleveland Heights government and Cleveland Heights through our legislative action. I haven't been given reasons that are compelling enough to vote yes in the face of those concerns. I needed to express that and I have high hopes. You know, I maintain hope that the next two years will be progressive and helpful for Cleveland Heights and I look forward to working with anyone as much as they'd like to work with me, but I had to express sort of the reasoning behind my no vote on this."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Anyone else like to make a comment. If not, let's move forward with the vote. If the Clerk would call the roll please."

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

Nays: Seren

Motion Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, "Six ayes, Your Honor."

Councilwoman Stephens stated, "Thank you. Carol Roe effectively becomes Mayor with the vote transfer and we will now have the polite transfer of the gavel."

Tanisha Briley stated, "We've got to swear you in, Carol."

Mayor Roe stated, Judge Oliver is also swearing me in and holding the Bible is my sister, Shirley Roe Stroud and my pastor, Amy Starr Redwine. This Bible looks pretty beat up because it is. It was my mother's."

Judge Oliver stated, "Raise your right hand. Repeat after me. I."

Mayor Roe stated, "I, Carol Roe."

Judge Oliver stated, "Do solemnly affirm."

Mayor Roe stated, "Do solemnly affirm."

Judge Oliver stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Mayor Roe stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Judge Oliver stated, "The Constitution."

Mayor Roe stated, "The Constitution."

Judge Oliver stated, "And laws of the State of Ohio."

Mayor Roe stated, "And laws of the State of Ohio."

Judge Oliver stated, "The charter."

Mayor Roe stated, "The charter."

Judge Oliver stated, "And ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Roe stated, "And ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Judge Oliver stated, "And that so long as I continue."

Mayor Roe stated, "And that as long as I continue."

Judge Oliver stated, "To hold a position as Mayor and President of Council."

Mayor Roe stated, "To hold a position as Mayor and President of Council."

Judge Oliver stated, "I will honestly."

Mayor Roe stated, "I will honestly."

Judge Oliver stated, "Faithfully."

Mayor Roe stated, "Faithfully."

Judge Oliver stated, "And impartially discharge."

Mayor Roe stated, "And impartially discharge."

Judge Oliver stated, "The duties of that office."

Mayor Roe stated, "The duties of that office."

Judge Oliver stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Roe stated, "To the best of my ability."

Judge Oliver stated, "Congratulations to you."

Mayor Roe stated, "The next item on the agenda is the nominations for the Office of Vice Mayor. Are there nominations for the Office of Vice Mayor?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Mayor Roe."

Mayor Roe stated, "Councilperson Ungar."

Councilman Ungar stated, "I'm proud to nominate my Council colleague and my friend, Melissa Yasinow, to serve as Vice President which, per our charter once again, Section 3-11 means that she will also serve as our Vice Mayor. Now, the truth is, as many in the audience know, Melissa doesn't need much of an introduction. How do I know this? Because she's very well known in our community. How do I know that? Because she was the top vote getter in the last election. Only one candidate surpassed the 7,000 vote mark, quite an impressive feat when you consider there were five candidates plus a write-in opportunity, and that person was Melissa. Now, there's a reason why she got the highest number of votes. No, it's not because she's a real estate mogul or was featured on a TV show called The Apprentice or had the best yard signs or comes from an amazing family because she certainly does. Fortunately, I know the real reason why she got the highest number of votes because I had the privilege of being a running mate in this past November's election. I can tell you the real reason is because she cares and it shows and everything she does, Melissa brings it and she brings it with gusto, dogged determination, passion and optimism, accompanied by that warm smile – there it is – sharp intellect, engaging personality and a winning attitude. That's what she brings to the table every single day for our community. Now, I gotta tell you, this is my first go at a campaign and you get to know someone pretty darn well when you're in an intense election campaign working side by side together whether it's

installing yard signs or appearing at important community events. This is a woman who know that there is no I in team and that we collectively as a Council are better off working together for the combined good in a transparent way and as a team and I can also tell you, based on our many hours driving and walking what felt like almost every inch of this city, that Melissa thinks about the issues carefully and deliberately and then makes her decisions based solely on one criteria - What is in the best interest of Cleveland Heights and its residents. That's exactly what you want from a public servant and I can tell you this – for those who attend our meetings or even if you just watch them at home on TV, you all know that at the end of many a Council meeting, Melissa frequently says something about personal safety or she speaks about something that is a vital concern to our community. She's not acting, folks, and she's not putting on a show. She's doing that because she so genuinely cares about what happens to our neighbors here in Cleveland Heights. Now, given all these accolades I've just accounted for you, while she's good, she's not perfect. On the campaign trail, many a text with my assignments of the day would come in before 5:30 a.m. Now, assuming this nomination is successful, please no assignments before 6:00, okay? Finally, just in case anyone hasn't noticed, Melissa is a Millennial, and best I can tell, if she's elected by her peers this evening, she's going to be the youngest Vice Mayor in Cleveland Heights history or at least in a very, very long time. Quite an accomplishment and I, for one, think it's pretty darn cool that we in Cleveland Heights can see fit to have a Millennial as out Vice Mayor. I think it sends the right message at the right time and a very positive one to the greater community and to those who may be considering making Cleveland Heights their home; at least I sure hope so. Thus, colleagues, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominate my friend Melissa Yasinow to be our Vice President of Council and the Vice Mayor of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you, Councilperson Ungar. Are there other nominations for the Office of Vice Mayor? Is there anyone who wishes to speak to the nomination in addition? Seeing none, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll."

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

Nays: Seren

Motion Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, "Six ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Roe stated, "Congratulations, Vice Mayor."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "Thank you. Okay, fewer than the whole second row this whole time. My husband, Matt, will be swearing me in. If Bonnie Caplan could please hold the Bible, and my parents."

Matt Shupe stated, "Are you ready?"

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "As I'll ever be."

Matt Shupe stated, "Please repeat after me. I, Melissa Yasinow."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I, Melissa Yasinow."

Matt Shupe stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Solemnly swear."

Matt Shupe stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Matt Shupe stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And laws of the United States of America."

Matt Shupe stated, "The Constitution."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The Constitution."

Matt Shupe stated, "And laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Matt Shupe stated, "The charter and ordinances."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The charter and ordinances."

Matt Shupe stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Matt Shupe stated, "And that so long as I continue as I continue to hold the position."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And that so long as I continue as I continue to hold the position."

Matt Shupe stated, "As Vice Mayor and Vice President of Council."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "As Vice Mayor and Vice President of Council."

Matt Shupe stated, "I will honestly."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I will honestly."

Matt Shupe stated, "Faithfully."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Faithfully."

Matt Shupe stated, "And impartially."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "And impartially."

Matt Shupe stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Matt Shupe stated, "To the best of my ability."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Roe stated, "The next item on the agenda is the swearing in of our newest Judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, James J. Costello."

Judge Costello stated, "Joining me up here will be my amazing wife, Alicia, and our sons Oliver and Abraham, my mom Joan Moore and Chris to come, my father Mike as well and swearing me in will be our now retired Judge A. Deane Buchanan. This is his first business day of retirement and even now, he's still working. So, that just gives you an example of how hard he has worked for us and we are indebted to him. So, I appreciate him coming up."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Okay, judge raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, and state your name."

Judge Costello stated, "I, James Joseph Costello."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Judge Costello stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Judge Buchanan stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Costello stated, "That I will support The Constitution."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Of the United States."

Judge Costello stated, "Of the United States."

Judge Buchanan stated, "And The Constitution."

Judge Costello stated, "And The Constitution."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Of the State of Ohio."

Judge Costello stated, "Of the State of Ohio."

Judge Buchanan stated, "I will administer justice."

Judge Costello stated, "I will administer justice."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Without respect to persons."

Judge Costello stated, "Without respect to persons."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Judge Costello stated, "Of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Without respect to persons."

Judge Costello stated, "Without respect to persons."

Judge Buchana stated, "And will faithfully."

Judge Costello stated, "And will faithfully."

Judge Buchanan stated, "And impartially."

Judge Costello stated, "And impartially."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Discharge and perform."

Judge Costello stated, "Discharge and perform."

Judge Buchanan stated, "All the duties."

Judge Costello stated, "All the duties."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Encumbered upon me."

Judge Costello stated, "Encumbered upon me."

Judge Buchanan stated, "As Judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court."

Judge Costello stated, "As Judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court."

Judge Buchanan stated, "According to the best."

Judge Costello stated, "According to the best."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Of my ability."

Judge Costello stated, "Of my ability."

Judge Buchanan stated, "And understanding."

Judge Costello stated, "And understanding."

Judge Buchanan stated, "This I do."

Judge Costello stated, "This I do."

Judge Buchanan stated, "As I shall answer unto God."

Judge Costello stated, "As I shall answer unto God."

Judge Buchanan stated, "Congratulations."

Mayor Roe stated, "The next items on the agenda are remarks from the Councilmembers, Vice Mayor Yasinow. We'll now listen to comments from the Council members and the first person is Vice Mayor Yasinow."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Mayor Roe. I don't have any written statements and I hope to be brief. I just want to thank the citizens of Cleveland Heights for your faith in me, for voting for me. I want to thank my colleagues on Council. This is very much a team effort in everything that we do. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with everyone on this dais, some for the past two years, some for the past four. It has been an honor, pleasure. I want to thank my friends and family who are here today. There is nothing that one accomplishes alone. Everyone is where we are because of the love and support of those who helped get us here. So, I want to thank everyone; my parents primarily, my husband for those long nights on the campaign trail. I might have been texting Mike at 4:30 or 5:30 in the morning, but I was bugging Matt even before that. To Bonnie Caplan, who served this job so nobly and who first suggested that I run. To Aunt Debbie, Svetlana, everyone in the second row out there, to Deb Warner and Mike Ungar, it was a pleasure, to Svetlana, it was a pleasure to run with you Mike, but again, the text messages at 5:30 were a thing and the only reason I got to make those text messages to Mike was because Deb allowed them, so thank you. So, just thank you all here. I'm grateful for your trust. I'm grateful for your support and I hope to continue to earn that trust and support every day so long as I am able to serve the citizens and the City of Cleveland Heights. Thank you."

Mayor Roe stated, "Councilperson Stephens."

Councilwoman Stephens stated, "I pass. I've had something to say already."

Mayor Roe stated, "Councilperson Stein."

Councilman Stein stated, "My kids already are out of the front row, most of them, so it's a little bit late for them and they still had some homework to do, so I also pass."

Mayor Roe stated, "Councilperson Dunbar."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, I regret that I do have some comments. No, I don't regret it, but anyway, I would like to again congratulate Jason, Cheryl, Mike and Melissa on their elections to City Council. We are very fortunate to have a good supply of residents interested in serving citizens by

servicing on City Council as well as on City boards, commissions, and committees and many of them are here in the room. We serve in a level of government that impacts the quality of your life day to day. You'd like to be able to take for granted good roads, clean water, well-functioning sewers, reliable police, firemen and emergency medical people, well maintained houses, garbage pickup. That's what we strive to do. Beyond that, in Cleveland Heights, we have wonderful recreation facilities, ice rinks, basketball courts, playing fields, parks, unique arts and use in Cain Park and that's just what your city supports directly. Our business districts add to the mix with assistance from your city. So, I want to congratulate everyone who makes our city vital and enjoyable because it's a much larger effort than just City Council and that makes the city what it is. So, traditionally, municipal services have been nonpartisan concerns. We want them to be good. It's a team effort by City Council and staff to make that happen. I was interested in being considered for one of the top positions in Mayor or Vice Mayor and what I quickly discovered is that the election on Mayor is not nonpartisan. In fact, it's quite partisan. It turns out that everyone on City Council except me is on a Democratic executive committee or aspiring to be on one and if they were to endorse a person who is not registered Democrat, and in case anybody doesn't know, I am registered Republican, that they would be kicked off the executive committee and that, in fact, happened to, as I understand it, I was told South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo who endorsed a Republican and, so since I personally, frankly, never run for City Council as a Republican - it's a nonpartisan election and I've always put that on my campaign literature and I view it as a nonpartisan election because I think what we're doing is not really particularly partisan, sewers and so on. So, I have, as you also know, there is a Charter Review Commission at work now, so I have provided that committee with - there's a number of communities around the country that have a different system for choosing Mayors and Vice Mayors on a City Manager-Council form of government which is that the person that gets the most votes in any election will be Mayor Pro-Tem and then, in two years of their four-year term, that person will become Mayor. It makes the Mayor position a rotating position which I think is appropriate in a Council of equals and it also makes it nonpartisan which is appropriate for this city and because, again, what we do is not really partisan particularly. So, anyway, I've provided them with a sample ordinance from one other community and I'm hoping that that will be considered as something to do in the future and I think that's about all I have to say, but I do think that making the Mayor being a rotating position and one that is nonpartisan consistent with the election would be a good step forward for this community. So, that's it."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you, Councilperson Dunbar. Councilperson Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Council President. I would like first to congratulate everybody on their electoral wins in November and I'd also like to congratulate both the Council President and the Council Vice President on being selected for these positions. I hope for and wish for good things."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Councilperson Ungar."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you. I will be very brief. You've heard enough from me this evening. I want to join my colleagues who have said so in thanking my supporters for the opportunity

and the voters of Cleveland Heights for the opportunity to serve. I'm humbled by the prospect and truly honored to be a Councilperson. Those that know me know that following the election, I've been chomping at the proverbial bit. I can hardly wait to roll up my sleeves and begin working with the newly constituted leadership of Council and with this Council, and in reflecting what I might say this evening and don't worry, this is not going to be long, I asked myself slightly introspectively, 'Gee, why is that? Why is it that I'm so fired up about doing the work of my second job?' I'm otherwise a full-time practicing lawyer and the answer, mercifully so, is currently set forth on Next Door for those that are paying attention to Next Door and, if not, in the Heights Observer. My friend Bob Brown, I think, just right before the holidays posted an amazing piece entitled, 'Ten Reasons I Choose to Live in Cleveland Heights.' I immediately read it. I thought it was fantastic. I circulated it to my colleagues and a few other folks and it got posted and re-posted and I would commend you, if you haven't had an opportunity to do so, to take a look at it, particularly those that currently live in Cleveland Heights and if you don't live in Cleveland Heights, you should read it and that will convince you, hopefully, to move to Cleveland Heights or, in some cases, to return to Cleveland Heights, but those 10 reasons why he chooses to live in Cleveland Heights are precisely why I choose to serve as a servant for you here on Cleveland Heights City Council and, again, I'm humbled and honored by the opportunity to do so and I really look forward to rolling up the sleeves and getting to work with my colleagues. Thank you very much."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you, Councilperson Ungar. I am truly humbled by the confidence which has been placed in me by my colleagues and will work very hard to continue that confidence and gain the confidence that may not be there. I thank God for the many blessings in my life including the love and support from both friends and family. While both of my brothers and my parents have passed away, my faith was transmitted to me by my mother and my giving back to the community came from my father. My deceased husband was almost always supportive of me. I say almost because we did disagree about guns. I am delighted that my sister is here with me this evening and my son in Kansas is with us in his thoughts. I have some other very important families, among them, my nurse family and my church family that are occupying like the third and the fourth rows on this side and a row back here, I think. So, I'm grateful for all of those individuals including my current pastor Amy Starr Redwine and former pastor Burt Campbell. These families not only provide support to me when needed, but they're also a constant source of thoughts about how I can make Cleveland Heights better and the world better. So, I never don't have that support in terms of telling me what kinds of things I think about doing and I appreciate that. I'm very appreciative of my lawyer family, especially Judge Solomon Oliver and his wife Louisa. Judge Oliver, who was a mentor to me in law school and continues to provide advice to me as does his wife. I have a wonderful ex-employer family that's here that I'm so glad to see and I want to acknowledge and thank Cheryl Stephens and Jason Stein for their past and continuing commitment to our city and their service on Council. Again, I am humbled by this position. I look forward to the challenges, but feel very confident about the future. We have a group of people with a wide array of expertise and opinions to offer to our team and we have an excellent staff with whom to collaborate. Thank you all. At this point, we will... so, we do have some other business to conduct this evening and I just wanted to give you permission, if you don't want to stay in this crowded room, this would be an appropriate time to move away if you feel the need to. You're perfectly welcome to stay. We don't want

anybody to feel like they have to leave, but it occurs to us that there's a reception and you can go to the reception in the atrium and we will join you there. Promise. We promise we will join you there.

We have minutes of our last Council meeting. We need to approve the minutes of our last regular Council meeting held Monday, December 4, 2017."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Carol, we're going to hold those minutes for approval until the next meeting."

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay, great. We'll hold those minutes until the next meeting. The next item on the agenda is personal communications from citizens. So, any citizen who wishes to share anything with us should approach the podium, state your name and your address and please try to limit your remarks to three minutes."

Kathy Flora stated, "Kathy Flora."

Mayor Roe stated, "Would you speak up into the microphone?"

Kathy Flora stated, "Are you not hearing me? Kathy Flora, 2449 Queenston. Happy New Year. In the spirit of new beginnings and traditional New Year resolutions, some of us have gotten together to present the Council with pitchers and water glasses that we hope that you will accept and that you will resolve to drink less bottled water in the future. It is better for your own health of course, but is also better for the health of the planet and for the promise of a future for your children and grandchildren. We are blessed to live where water is relatively abundant. This is not true, however, for many of the areas in the world where major bottling companies extract from local water supplies. For us to drink bottled water makes no sense when that water is taken from drought susceptible California or other places in the world where the resource is scarce. In many small villages where extractions are happening, the water table has dropped dramatically leaving dry wells or water fountains dribbling only foul smelling sludge. Major bottling companies are, at this moment, trying to corner the market on water supplies. If this continues, a handful of companies will own all major water rights and resources. This business plan is already threatening the lives of the most vulnerable populations in the world and in our own country. I hope that you will consider drinking our own Cleveland water in the future. Thank you."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you for you very generous gift. Next."

Ann Caruso stated, "My name is Ann Caruso. I live at 2273 Bellfield Avenue and I'll be brief. The gift that we're giving you is because you meet ahead of public Council and have dinner and usually have bottled water that's ordered along with your dinner. So, we're hoping that, instead of ordering the bottled water, you will use these pitchers and glasses. And why are we doing that? Kathy, you know, talked a little bit about that, but I just want to remind everybody that we have a climate crisis. I'd be really surprised if anybody on Council is a climate denier. I'm pretty confident that most, if not all, of you believe the science about climate and we are in a crisis. The International Panel on Climate Change has

determined that we need to leave 80% of the known fossil fuel resources in the ground in order to avert catastrophic climate change. So, it's very important that our demand for plastic go down instead of up and I was very surprised to find out that demand for plastic, the production of plastic, is at an all-time high. Even after decades of recycling, we are making more plastic than ever and that's because of the demand. So, we all need to really examine our habits and think about areas that we can make changes that will point the planet in the sustainable direction. I think everybody's aware that we're supposed to stay within 350 parts per million of carbon in order to have a stable climate and this year, we hit 400. We had a short period of time where we hit 410. So, this is, we're in a crisis even though the attitude in the country doesn't kind of reflect that we're in a crisis. So, we're hoping that this really small change is something that you will do because it will be a good example to the community and it will also be a good example to other civic bodies that we are taking a direction away from plastics. Okay, thank you very much."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you."

Alan Wilkinson stated, "Alan Wilkinson, 1286 Yellowstone, and Cleveland Heights. Sustainable Heights Network recognizes that each action, no matter how seemingly small, encompasses an important part of the universal efforts needed to help our environment heal and flourish. We appreciate your recent voice in support of the Paris Climate Accord. We thus join in presenting this gift of glass to you, the Cleveland Heights City Council members, as an example and reminder of yet more actions needed to be taken."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you."

Mary Kelsey stated, "Mary Kelsey, 3107 Meadowbrook. I'm reading a letter that I will present to you from Matt Zone who is a Cleveland City Council member for Ward 15 and also the President of the National League of Cities."

To the Cleveland Heights City Council, dated December 15, 2017, I want to applaud your city on recent efforts to remove wasteful plastic products within your daily operations. About five years ago, our City Council moved away from using any plastic or Styrofoam during daily operations and adopted a plastic free environment in order to lessen our staff's environmental impact. I appreciate that you're considering joining us in your effort to go plastic free. By making this choice, your city is becoming more socially and environmentally responsible. As I'm sure you'll understand, what we do in the public sector impacts our private sector. By making this switch, your city is also taking the stance that environmental issues cannot be ignored. Again, thank you for your efforts to remove plastic products in your daily operations. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Respectfully, Matt Zone."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Is there any other person who wishes to speak before Council this evening? Seeing no one moving to the microphone, we'll move on to the report of the City Manager."

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, "I just want to congratulate everyone on this evening and I have nothing else to report.

Mayor Roe stated, "Don't you have something to tell us about sealed bids?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "Oh, I forgot about this bids. Yeah, I was ready to wrap it up for you. I do need to report out on the sealed bids for the 2017 Fire Hose Purchasing Program #17-08. The bids have been tabulated and Warren Fire Equipment, Inc. bid of \$56,568 is the lowest and responsive bid and I would like to make that a Matter of Record."

Matter of Record

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you and we will refer that to the Municipal Service Committee. Next is the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council report."

Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council

Laurie Sabin stated, "I have nothing to report for realies."

Report of the Administrative Services Committee

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay, thank you. Committee reports will be given by the former chairs of the committees from last year since we haven't reorganized yet in terms of our new committees. So, the Administrative Services Committee has no report. Next is Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Councilperson Stein."

Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee

Councilman Stein stated, "No report."

Mayor Roe stated, "The Finance Committee. Councilperson Ungar."

Report of the Finance Committee

Councilman Ungar stated, "All in good order and nothing further to report. Right, Ms. Sabin? All in good order. Okay, good. Thank you."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Municipal Services Committee. Vice Mayor Yasinow."

Report of the Municipal Services Committee

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "Thank you very much, Your Honor. I have three very quick pieces of legislation this evening all on second reading. First up is Ordinance Number 129-2017. This is an ordinance authorizing the city to enter into the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, known as NOPEC,

and authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver the agreement establishing NOPEC and approving the bylaws of NOPEC. I hereby present Ordinance Number 129-2017 for consideration and passage this evening.”

Councilman Ungar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Roe stated, “Does anybody want to speak to this?”

Councilman Ungar stated, “Just very briefly before we vote on this series of legislation, I want to once again publicly commend our staff. There was, and in particular Susanna Niermann O’Neil. Is she here?”

Tanisha Briley stated, “She’s hosting the party.”

Councilman Ungar stated, “She’s hosting the party. Okay. And Tanisha and other members of staff. There was a tremendous amount of research, legwork, homework and due diligence done in connection with this project. It’s all reduced now to these three simple pieces of legislation, but there was a lot of work behind the scenes that went into it and I’m very appreciative of that and I know others are as well. So, thank you.”

Mayor Roe stated, “Are we ready to vote? Please call the roll.”

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, “Seven ayes, Your Honor.”

Mayor Roe stated, “The motion passes.”

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, “The ordinance next up – Ordinance Number 130-2017. This is on second reading. This is an ordinance approving the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, known as NOPEC, Gas Aggregation Program for the purpose of jointly establishing and implementing a gas aggregation program. I hereby present Ordinance Number 130-2017 for passage on second reading this evening.”

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Roe stated, “Are there any other persons wishing to speak to this? Seeing none, would the Clerk call the roll?”

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, "Seven ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Roe stated, "The motion has passed. One more."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "All right, Number 131-2017. This is an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Natural Gas Program Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council. I hereby present Ordinance Number 131-2017 for passage on second reading this evening."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Second."

Mayor Roe stated, "Anyone else wish to comment? So, please move forward."

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, "Seven ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay, thank you. Does that complete your report?"

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "I have just one or two very fast things for the record. First off, the MLK Day Celebration for the City of Cleveland Heights will be happening January 17, 2018, at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. 2018, I apologize. It is the New Year. So, January 17, 2018, at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. It's one of my favorite events. I hope you all can make it. Additionally, on January 25, 2018, we will be having per our charter, the Democracy Day event for citizens to come and comment in a public hearing about the influence on corporations and money in politics. We look forward to seeing you there. That will be January 25, 2018, right here in Council Chambers and finally, I would be remiss if I did not remind people with a little car-care-safety issue. Please, I know that it's cold outside and unfortunately, only going to get colder, but please do not start your car, run it outside and come back. Please take a moment to think smart, think safe and thank you very much."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Next is the Planning and Development Committee."

Councilwoman Stephens stated, "What about Public Safety and Health?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Public Safety."

Mayor Roe stated, "Public Safety, go ahead."

Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you. All right, so, just a couple things. One, I wanted to let people know Council President Roe has come up with, I think, a great idea to have a work session on Ordinance Number 106-2017 and that's the Ordinance related to Cleveland Heights local involvement in U.S. civil immigration law. So, I think you said January possibly. So, we'll see, just be on the lookout for that and, related, I wanted to let people know that the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Chapter of The League of Women Voters in collaboration with Heights Public Library is holding a panel discussion on January 17. That's Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Library Main Branch on Lee Road and this is a panel discussion on Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio and U.S. policies and laws related to immigration. I will be participating as probably the least impressive of the panelists, so I invite you to attend. Once again, that's January 18, 7:00 – 8:30 at the Lee Road branch of the Heights Library."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Next we move to Councilperson Dunbar, Planning and Development."

Report of the Planning and Development Committee

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes. Since we haven't met for a month, I just wanted to mention that there are several development opportunities under way in the community on which I hope we will make very substantial progress on in 2018. So, for example, as previously discussed, the city has a draft of a development agreement with Flaherty & Collins, the developers selected for Top of the Hill. This agreement has not yet been finalized, but we are anticipating that it will be before long to the satisfaction of the city, the developers, the School Board, since this, like all developments, has property and income tax implications. When it happens, City Council will be expected to authorize our City Manager to endorse the agreement. There will be a couple readings of the legislation authorizing our City Manager to enter into this agreement which is currently about 100 pages long and I just wanted to report that I have read most of it, almost all of it, so I think I deserve a gold star on my forehead and..."

Mayor Roe stated, "I'll bring some to the next meeting."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Anyway, the goal is to move this along as rapidly as possible and hopefully to make it work, but the overall goal is to get everything right. Of course, we also have concerns ongoing regarding the Coventry School and Severance. So, there will be during the course of the year, developments at this time, but there really is nothing to announce at this point. We'll just slogging away on these opportunities to make the most of them that we can for our city. That's all."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. The next meeting of the Council will be Tuesday, January 16, 2018, and the Vice Mayor has already announced the special meeting of Council for Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 regarding the hearing on political influence of corporate entities. I have really nothing else to add this evening other than borrowing my predecessor's closing. God bless us all and God bless Cleveland Heights. This meeting is adjourned."

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Roe, Mayor

Laurie Sabin, Clerk of Council

/jkw