

City Council for the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, held a Committee Meeting of the Whole on the above date at 6:22 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo.

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

Council Member excused: Stephens

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

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:35 p.m., Mayor Stephens and Mayor Roe presiding.

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

Excused: Stephens, Ungar

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

Mayor Roe stated, "Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the Tuesday, January 16 meeting of the Cleveland Heights City Council. Welcome to all of you who are here and welcome to all of you who may be watching us on the video. So, the first thing on the agenda is – could the Clerk call the roll call of Council members please?"

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

Council Members excused: Stephens, Ungar

Laurie Sabin stated, "Five present, Your Honor."

Mayor Roe stated, "Five present. We need to excuse for business reasons two Council members this evening – Cheryl Stephens and Mike Ungar. The minutes of the regular Council meeting that were held on Monday, December 4 were sent to us in our packets and I reviewed them and had no corrections. Did anyone else have corrections to the minutes? So, those of you who haven't had an opportunity should still do that and thank you for that. The next item on our agenda is personal communications from citizens. So, if there are citizens here this evening, could they please move to the lectern and give us their name and their address and please try to limit your time to three minutes?"

Melody Hart stated, "Okay, I'm Melody Hart, 2976 Monmouth Road. I'm here on behalf of GCC. Before Gary talks, I want to give a little background on this because I thought it might - some people might not be aware of this type of a structure. Normally, when people think of mortgages and foreclosures, they think of a lender providing a loan to a borrower and then the borrower defaulting and the lender actually foreclosing. That's often not how it works. How it works and if we go back to the financial crisis, what happened then is a lot of mortgages are being sold into securitizations. So, a trust is formed, the lender makes a loan, they aren't responsible for it anymore, they shove it into this

securitization and then they sell shares. So, you, Kahlil could buy a share that would get you entitled to x amount of principle and interest except it isn't related to any particular loan. So, there's not as much oversight. Now, that created a problem because the lenders were lending irresponsibly at the time. So, the whole thing imploded. Now, the securitizations have not gone away. They've become a little bit more responsible about them, but they are still there and so, let's talk about foreclosures because we went to U.S. Bank and we found this to be true. So, what happens is if it's a U.S. Bank loan, it's really not a U.S. Bank loan. They are the trustee over the trust. They're not responsible for that property. They're not responsible for collecting the money. They're not responsible for foreclosing. They're not responsible for maintaining it. There is a servicer that is hired and that servicer is the one who is responsible for doing that. Now, you might not know who that servicer is. We have to go back to the trustee to try to find out and U.S. Bank does actually provide a phone number to call, but I just wanted to give that background about mortgages so that it sets up what he was going to tell you."

Gary Benjamin stated, "It's a two-part presentation."

Mayor Roe stated, "Oh, that's very clever."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "You get a full six minutes here."

Gary Benjamin stated, "So, that leads us to the GCC recommendation and FutureHeights recommendation that you do a foreclosure bond ordinance."

Mayor Roe stated, "We know that you're Gary Benjamin."

Gary Benjamin stated, "I'm Gary Benjamin, 2976, yes, I'm with her. Monmouth, sorry. And that's what Melody is explaining – why, one of the reason anyway, we believe the foreclosure bond is necessary. We've been in, not us personally, but Diana Woodbridge and our group has been in conversations, really preliminary ones, with U.S. Bank all in writing and we have their letter if I could pass it out to you guys. The thing that jumped out at me at the letter was that 70% to 80% of the foreclosures are in these securitizations which means that 70% to 80% of the foreclosures, in essence, nobody's responsible for keeping the property up while it goes through the title change process. We've gone door to door in the Noble neighborhood and Diana has done a lot of research online. We found that in the whole city around 200 properties had been foreclosed on and are kind of sitting there. Noble has half of those and of that group, 20 are U.S. Bank. So, that's why we got into conversations with them. We wanted to encourage them to keep up their property or do something with it and this was their first response to us. So, we wanted to put that on your radar screen. Again, I know we wrote a letter before the election and then we sort of backed off because you all were busy running and, but I think it's a good thing. Several cities have done it and I don't know any of them. I've talked to two of them and those two talked to the other three and my scuttlebutt is that they're all happy with the program. Basically, what happens is – before they foreclose, the foreclosing entity has to put \$10,000 into a fund with the city and then the city can keep the property up while it goes through the property title change and at the end, if there's money left over, that goes back to the original foreclosing agent. And if there isn't, there isn't, but the property gets kept up. So, we wanted to make sure you put that on

the policy radar screen. We also, as you know, have been advocating for the CDC and we wanted to say we're really happy with the progress that's been made. We understand that there have been two or three meetings and that they're pretty close to finished. So, we wanted to keep that on your radar screen as well and your policy agenda for the year. Thanks."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you, Gary. Before you go away, for those people who might be watching on television, could you please just remind us again what GCC stands for and who it's comprised of."

Gary Benjamin stated, "Greater Cleveland Congregations is an organization really more than countywide, but focused on Cuyahoga County. It turns out that a lot of our member churches and synagogues are here in Cleveland Heights. I think it's eight of them or nine of them. We have around, it depends how – churches count their memberships differently – but we're 40,000 to 50,000 people and we work on issues of economic development, but also criminal justice, education, healthcare, jobs. I'm sure I'm missing something. It's a multi-issue, multi-faith organization. Thanks."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. I won't count that as your three minutes since I asked the question."

Mark Harris stated, "Good evening. My name is Mark Harris, 3412 Superior Park Drive. I'm here to inform Council that as of November 28 of last year, we have established a Kiwanis Chapter here in Cleveland Heights, also serving University Heights. For those of you that are aware, Kiwanis was present in the Cleveland Heights area for a number of years and the existing chapter had aged out, laid dormant for several years, and through an initiative of Kiwanis International, came to a group of us and asked us to restart the initiative. Primarily what we do is we serve children; we serve adults with disabilities. We are working directly with the School District to reestablish the Key Club and Builders Clubs that used to be present in those schools. We'll also be working with the Kindergarten through sixth grade buildings to establish K Clubs. We'll also be working with adults with disabilities to establish an action club. We intend to be incredibly present in the neighborhoods in terms of our fundraising and our service. We have established also a liaison with Cleveland Heights through Dee Marsky who serves on our board. So, as we have needs that will need to approach the City about, we'll do that through her. As well as if there are needs that Council or administration see are not being fulfilled because city services either do not have the manpower or the dollars present to do that, that they are welcome to approach us and, if we're able to do it, we're more than happy to serve the community. So, that's all I wanted to say for right now. It's my hope in the next few weeks that I extend invitations to meet with individuals on Council and the administration to give a further explanation of our mission and I thank you very much for the time."

Mayor Roe stated, "Do you have a website yet?"

Mark Harris stated, "Yes, we do We just set one up. It's rudimentary. It's Kiwanisoftheheights.org. We also have a Facebook page, Kiwanis of the Heights, Heights and Heights is spelled correctly I think – Heights. The reason I say that is our Twitter page is Hts because of the

character limitation that they place on us. So, we have begun a presence on social media. I will tell you because of the short time frame and the fact that we got chartered right at holiday season that these efforts right now are rudimentary. They will become more sophisticated as time goes on, as time allows. We're a volunteer organization. So, it's not like I have people on staff that I can just say, 'Build me a website.' So, unfortunately, they're not as full as I would like. Also, we're completing our governmental registrations so that we can get a bank account and then we can do things like fundraising and put it in a bank account because we can't do that quite yet. So, I just again wanted to take the time to introduce ourselves, let the community know that we are back. We are present and we will become far more active as time goes on."

Mayor Roe stated, "Well, thank you for letting us know and I know that we look forward to our continued collaboration and know that you will do good things for the city."

Mark Harris stated, "All right, well thank you very much."

Mayor Roe stated, "Does anyone else wish to communicate with us this evening? Yes."

Jim Cathcart stated, "Good evening. My name is Jim Cathcart. I live at 14522 Superior Road. I've lived there for 34 years. I like living in Cleveland Heights, but I have some concerns about what's been going on with the Water Department recently and also the Sewer Department. I'm living on a widower's benefit and a fixed income. It's very little above the federal poverty level as you probably know. When the first transition charge for the water company arrived, I called up and asked what that was about and was told it was a one-time charge. Well, that didn't turn out to be the truth. When I called a second time, I was told it was going to be a charge that would go on for the next five years. I find that my water bill and my sewer bill are three times what they were normally. I know there are rising costs, but I don't know how they justify this. The sewer thing apparently is because they have to inspect the sewers for the next two years because they all need to be refurbished and brought up to date or whatever, but these charges, I'm actually, even with a COLA raise on Social Security, which for me was \$26 a month, that's been wiped out by these extra charges, plus my PIPP program has been increased by \$14 a month. So, I'm actually worse off this year than I was last year. I don't know if other people are complaining about this or if there's been any talk about it at all. What I got from the water company was, 'Well, we should have done this transition five years ago and we didn't do it and it's incurred a lot of costs and now the residents are going to have to carry that. So, I don't feel that's right and I don't know what can be done about it, whether I should be talking directly to the water and sewer companies, but I don't get anywhere with them. They just kind of say, 'Well, that's the way it is.'"

Mayor Roe stated, "Well, I thought I saw Susanna, our Vice City Manager."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes, we will make sure that Susanna speaks with you directly. I do want to, Mayor, if it's okay, thank you for bringing up this issue. It is a serious one that was brought to our attention by several residents such as yourself over the 2017 year when we went through the transition. One of the things that we've been able to work out with the Cleveland Water Department, the issue was the transition rate, as you know, which will go on for now the next four years, didn't take into

consideration a Homestead discount so that our residents that qualify for Homestead would not be negatively impacted. So, that adjustment has been made and going forward, your water bills from the City of Cleveland will reflect that and then, we're also working with the City of Cleveland to get to make sure that those who were Homestead in 2017, you will end up with a credit as well. The City of Cleveland Heights is going to make you whole on the difference between the new Homestead transition rate. So, we want to make sure that you're signed up for the program."

Jim Cathcart stated, "I am already on the Homestead Program."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Excellent. And then we also have a new set of affordability programs coming out for our local sewer. So, we just want to make sure that you're covered."

Jim Cathcart stated, "On the sewer thing, it's 40% or something?"

Tanisha Briley stated, "Correct, and that program that you're currently signed up with is with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The City of Cleveland Heights will now also have that same 40% discount so we just need to see your paperwork from the Sewer District and that will qualify you for our program that you're in all the programs that you're eligible for. So, I understand that it was a difficult year and we've worked with Cleveland to address that and we're pleased that they have absorbed the cost going forward and we're happy to be in a position to take care of those residents for 2017. It's just going to take us a few more weeks to work out the final number and then we'll make a payment to Cleveland that will show up as a credit on your bill."

Jim Cathcart stated, "It will show up."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Yes, absolutely."

Jim Cathcart stated, "Okay, thank you. I just had one more thing about litter in the streets. I live four houses up from the corner store and by the time people are finished eating and drinking whatever it is, they're outside my house and down it goes. I and another neighbor have walked up and down the street with garbage bags and filled a black garbage bag full and that's not the whole length of the street. The same in Cain park. I've picked up stuff there that's five or six feet from a garbage pail. It's disgusting and I don't know how this comes about, whether it's taught at home or in the schools or what. I know in Singapore, I've lived all over the world, if you've dropped a candy paper, you go to jail for a month. That's a clean city. It's really ridiculous and it's a shame because that's where we live. I don't know if there can be a sign put up at the end of the street stating some kind of fine for littering or something that would maybe discourage people from doing that."

Mayor Roe stated, "Well, we appreciate your individual efforts and we wish that we had..."

Jim Cathcart stated, "It's not something I'm going to continue doing."

Mayor Roe stated, "A lot more citizens who regularly did that, but there are some... there is the potential in terms of areas where we have heavy littering, if you want, I've worked with the Housing

Department in terms of looking at particular areas. So again, I would ask you to talk with the Vice City Manager about how to address that issue also.”

Jim Cathcart stated, “I think it’s a shame. I mean, I like Cleveland Heights. I think it’s beautiful, but that disturbs me. Thank you very much.”

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, “You might, one quick question, sir, you mentioned the corner store. Could you be more specific as to which one?”

Jim Cathcart stated, “At the corner of Lee and Superior, there’s the Uptown Market.”

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, “Not Uptown Mart now. Okay, thank you sir.”

Mayor Roe stated, “Is there anyone else? Okay. Well, thank you all very much and we’ll move on now to the report of the City Manager. Ms. Briley.”

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, “Thank you, Your Honor. This evening I’d like to request permission to solicit bids for the following projects: #18-01 North Park Boulevard Bike Path Buffer Striping, #18-02 2018 Refuse Disposal, #18-03 2018 Street Resurfacing Program, and #18-04 2018 Surface Treating Program; and I’d like to make these a Matter of Record.”

Mayor Roe stated, “We’ll refer this issue to the Municipal Services Committee. Councilwoman Yasinow.”

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, “I hereby move... correctly?”

Tanisha Briley stated, “Yes.”

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, “To authorize the City Manager to solicit bids for the following projects: #18-01 North Park Boulevard Bike Path Buffer Striping, #18-02 2018 Refuse Disposal, #18-03 2018 Street Resurfacing Program, and #18-04 2018 Surface Treating Program.”

Councilman Seren stated, “Madam President, a bit of discussion please? Just briefly.”

Tanisha Briley stated, “Is there a second on the motion?”

Mayor Roe stated, “Do we have a second?”

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Second. I’ll second it.”

Councilman Seren stated, “I just wanted to briefly mention something that we discussed already in committee, but I just wanted to make the public aware just in case anyone sees the North Park Boulevard Bike Path Buffer Striping and remembers that Noble Road did not get bike path buffer striping in its resurfacing. I just wanted to inform the public that the reason why North Park is being striped in this way and Noble was not was a question of grant funding versus self-funding and the project on

Noble was a situation where we did not have additional funding provided to us for that striping and, in this case, we've got grant funding. So, we're hoping to find other funding for Noble going forward. I just wanted to bring that up."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Any other discussion on the motion?"

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "Just one other follow up for those who might not have attended the Council of the Whole, we are looking at sources of funding for Noble Road and apparently there was some very fun discussion of potential technological improvements because the striping that would be required would otherwise need to be done by hand which would be a very laborious and expensive process representing about 35% of our striping budget, but we are looking at opportunities including robots apparently. So, please stay tuned."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "And I will add a comment too which is that there is going to be a meeting about the Greenway Project in Cuyahoga County which included Noble Road and one of the meetings – there's several of them around the county, but one of them is tomorrow from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Hofbrau Haus in Cleveland and there's also one in Beachwood at Beachwood Community Center, I think it's 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday and this is, Noble Road, is included in the Greenway Plan. So, I'm just going to go and agitate for it. So, and anybody that wants to join me is welcome."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Are we ready to vote? Could the Clerk?"

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

 Nays: None

Motion Passed

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

Mayor Roe stated, "The motion passes. Next is the report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council."

Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council

Laurie Sabin stated, "Nothing to report, Your Honor."

Mayor Roe stated, "Nothing to report. So, then we'll move to the committee – Planning and Development Committee. Councilwoman Dunbar."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, so tonight I'm presenting Ordinance Number 105-2017 on third reading. This is an ordinance amending various sections of Part 11, Zoning Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights. I'm asking that fellow Council people join me in approving this and I have a few comments to make about it if there's a second for that."

Mayor Roe stated, "Second? Is there a second?"

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "So seconded."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Okay. So, those of you who follow Council actions closely will recognize that having a third reading on an ordinance is unusual. It means that Council has scrutinized the 87 pages of zoning up for approval tonight with care and also instigated some refinements. One of the most sophisticated of these refinements was the definition of family. What's a family? Well, read this document and you'll have a bona fide definition of that, to the best of our knowledge, meets the legal requirements. In any case, I believe the scrutiny and modifications are now complete and so, congratulations to our Planning Department, Planning Commission, Law Department and my fellow Council members on a job well done. This revision of Part 11 of the Cleveland Heights Zoning Code is one step in the marathon project called for in the Cleveland Heights Master Plan to continuously update and improve the code to reflect technology and other advances that support sustainability. So, I welcome us to vote on this ordinance now."

Mayor Roe stated, "Anyone else want to make comments before we vote? Call the vote."

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

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

Mayor Roe stated, "The motion passes. Okay, next is Administrative Services and Councilwoman Dunbar is up again as a member of the Administrative Services Committee."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Okay, so tonight we have Ordinance Number 1-2018. This is an ordinance amending Ordinance Number 20-2017; Wage and Salary Ordinance to delete certain terms and declaring an emergency. I would like to move that we approve this legislation and I can say a few more words about it afterwards I guess, if we get a second."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "So seconded."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Okay, this is something that gets updated regularly and it has to do with various benefits that employees of the city are entitled to and so we need to pass it tonight in order to move ahead with this. There's a broker that works with us on this and helps us find the right, best people to work with for the health care insurance and ancillary benefits. So, I encourage us to vote in favor or it."

Mayor Roe stated, "Any other discussion? Call the roll please."

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

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

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay, the motion passes. Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Councilman Stein."

Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee

Councilman Stein stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. There's no report."

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay. Finance Committee."

Report of the Finance Committee

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Okay, here I go again."

Mayor Roe stated, "Councilwoman Dunbar is doing triple duty tonight."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, I'm please to present Ordinance Number 2-2018. It's an ordinance amending Chapter 158, 'Income Tax,' of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, effective January 1, 2018, to meet the mandates for municipal tax codes contained in Sub. H.B. 49, in which the 132th General Assembly comprehensively amended Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code and reformed the imposition of municipal income taxes; and declaring an emergency. I would encourage all of my fellow City Council members to vote in favor of this. I so move."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "Seconded."

Mayor Roe stated, "Any other discussion?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes, I would like to just say a few words. This income tax ordinance is something we need to pass in order to tax our various people that owe the city taxes and it was provided to us by the taxing authority and it's used throughout the state, so it's been looked at by a great many people and I just would encourage City Council members to vote in favor of it so we can get on with income taxes."

Mayor Roe stated, "Any other comments? Would you call the roll please?"

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

Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

Laurie Sabin stated, "Five ayes."

Mayor Roe stated, "Okay, the motion passes. Next is the Municipal Services Committee. Councilwoman Yasinow."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "All right. Thank you very much. I have only one piece of legislation this evening. This is Ordinance Number 3-2018. This is an ordinance authorizing the First Amendment to the Transition Water Agreement with the City of Cleveland; and this would be pursuant to Ordinance Number 27-2016. This Council authorized the City Manager to execute several documents including the transition agreement with the City of Cleveland to enable residents to receive water and water-related services and the transition agreement requires that certain projects be completed by no later than December 31, 2017; and it would be in the best interest of the City of Cleveland Heights to extend the deadline for those certain projects to December 31, 2018. I hereby present Ordinance Number 3-2018 for passage this evening."

Mayor Roe stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilman Stein and Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Roe stated, "Any discussion? Hearing none, let's call the roll."

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

 Nays: None

Ordinance Passed

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

Mayor Roe stated, "Now we move to Public Safety and...oh, I'm sorry, go ahead."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "A couple of quick announcements. I just wanted to notify residents of a couple of events coming up in and around Cleveland Heights. First off, this Thursday will be the Charter Review Commission at 7:00. Also, on January 18, this Thursday at 7:30 p.m., we are Cleveland Heights; we are home to the arts. So, I think it's appropriate to mention a couple of arts related items. January 18 at 7:30 p.m., Severance Hall, the Cleveland Orchestra with the Cleveland Choir will be performing Haydn's The Seasons. This has been one of the highlights. They've been working very hard on it and this is also the production that the orchestra with the Cleveland Choir will be taking to New York City and performing in Carnegie Hall. I believe that our City Manager will be going to New York for the performance as well."

Tanisha Briley stated, "I do believe that you aunt would scold you for calling it the Cleveland Choir and not the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "I'm very sorry, Aunt Debbie."

Tanisha Briley stated, "I just wanted to save you from that scolding."

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated, "I'm very sorry, so that, that's number one. Additionally, we have a couple of other excellent performances in and around Cleveland Heights. Currently at Dobama Theater, they're performing Grounded. It's a phenomenal play between January 19 and February 11 and

Ensemble Theater is currently performing. The next show on that will be January 28. Other city events, on January 24 at 7:00 at the Community Center, we will be honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and I urge everyone to come and attend. That's , frankly, one of my favorite events each and every year – seeing how our children, our school age children really embody Dr. King's values and what they see as the hope for the future and what their dreams are. It's a truly inspirational event and I hope everyone can come. That will be, again, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. And January 25, right here in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. is Democracy Day as required as part of our charter where we can discuss the impact of democracy on corporate donations, corporations themselves. I look forward to being here and hopefully you will as well. Oh, and always, please – I'd be remiss if I did not say this – please do lock your cars and store your valuables in the trunk. That is all. Thank you."

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Public Safety and Health Committee. Councilman Seren."

Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Madam President. First, I'd like to express some support for the policy that Melody and Gary mentioned at the beginning of this meeting. I don't know if anybody remembers back in 2015, this proposal was brought up. I supported it then, of course, with the caveat that this is Cleveland Heights; we've got homes that are over 100 years old and especially given sort of escalation in construction, demolition costs potentially, I would posit that more than \$10,000 bond, which is sort of the standard or at least the historical standard of what a foreclosure bond tends to be, may not be enough, especially given the fact that some properties need maintenance over the course of however long until they are ultimately demolished and those maintenance costs plus the demolition cost may exceed what we generally tend to think of as a sort of standard \$10,000 average demo cost. So, I'd like to posit, and as I did back in 2015, that maybe we should take a look at \$12,000, \$15,000 foreclosure bond if we are going to be looking at that kind of policy change, but I support it, so I just wanted to go on record with that. The last thing that I'd like to mention – tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Road branch of the Heights Library, the League of Women Voters in collaboration with the Heights Library is putting on a public forum related to laws and policies about immigration and sanctuary cities. I invite you all to attend if you'd like to. I will be participating as a panelist related to Ordinance 106-2017 here in Cleveland Heights, but the conversation will be much more expansive than just Cleveland Heights. The title of the event is, 'Is Northeast Ohio a Sanctuary Region?' Obviously, we will not be answering that question exhaustively, but I think a lot of good discussion will be had and I certainly plan to learn quite a bit from the esteemed panelists and probably anybody else showing up. So, I invite you all once again tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Road branch of the Heights Library."

Mayor's Report

Mayor Roe stated, "Thank you. Does anybody else have any closing things to tell us about before I review a few things that I just wanted to report? Okay, I just wanted to briefly address three items; one which has already been done, but I'll say it again. I want to talk about the Charter Review

Commission, a review of our accomplishments in terms of the 2017 priorities and a Martin Luther King celebration that I was able to represent this city in participating in. Councilman Yasinow has already talked about the importance of the Charter Review Commission and a reminder that there is a meeting this coming Thursday evening. Another reminder that this commission is looking at the future of our city essentially in terms of reviewing what is our constitution as a city and welcomes public input. There is a whole section on the Cleveland Heights website that details what's going on with the commission and outlines opportunities for the public to participate. Secondly, I would like to just highlight some of our discussion from last week's Committee of the Whole meeting when we reviewed, as a Council, the progress on our 2017 Council and City Manager priorities. There were seven priority areas identified for 2017 and there were 13 subareas as part of that and I'm not going to detail every single one of them for you, but I will say to you that if you want more information and more detail, you can contact the City Manager's Office. I think it's important though to help people know that we are moving toward making sure that we continue to build our fiscal sustainability and we have addressed that in the last year by building reserves across most of the city's seven major operating funds. Another major goal was to diversify and strengthen our tax base and one of the projects in relation to that has been the Top of the Hill Project and work is ongoing with the School Board now as we take the next steps in moving that process forward. So, we're very excited about the work that's been done in relation to the Top of the Hill and we look forward to seeing more in 2018. We also focused some needed attention on the Noble Road Corridor in conjunction with the \$3,000,000 investment in resurfacing the road. Lights, streetscaping including baskets and new landscaping was done and the appearance of the city owned properties that are flanking Noble Road. There was certainly, we moved forward in marketing the strengths and opportunities of our city as we increased our communication efforts with the community through a revamped bi-weekly newsletter, social media outreach and a new Economic Development ENewsletter and our business channel. So, those are just some of the things that we accomplished in 2017. Next week in our Committee of the Whole meeting, we will be discussing as Council our suggested priorities for 2018. So, we look forward to that discussion and look forward to another successful year in Cleveland Heights. We know that we have challenges, but we've also had successes. Lastly, I had the opportunity to represent the city at the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration at the Cleveland Clinic. It was an inter-faith service followed by a community breakfast and program and I just wanted to highlight for you how inspirational that event is and if you have an opportunity in the future, you might want to consider attending because it was so inspirational. I'm still thinking about all of the stimulation that I got from going to that event. Jeffrey Canada was the speaker at the breakfast and for those of you who don't know, he was essentially the topic of the documentary Waiting for Superman, which was a focus on public education that it's appropriate this evening to close this meeting with a quote from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 'If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.' Thank you all. This meeting is adjourned."

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Roe, Mayor

Laurie Sabin, Clerk of Council

/jkw