



# CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

## **Monday, September 16, 2019 Minutes**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

6:25 – 7:28 p.m.

Mayor Roe presiding

Roll Call: Present: Cobb, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Excused: None

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Clinkscale, Freeman, Hanna, Lambdin, McRae,  
Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Smith, Wong

Topics discussed: Report of City Council Members, Legislation Discussion, Report of the City  
Manager

### **Executive Session**

6:47 – 7:28 p.m.

Council Member Dunbar made a motion to begin Executive Session, which was seconded by  
Council Member Cobb to consider the terms of a sale of City-owned personal property.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cobb, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Nays: None

Vice Mayor Yasinow made a motion to end Executive Session, which was seconded by Council  
Member Cobb.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cobb, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Nays: None

### **CITY COUNCIL**

7:48 – 9:56 p.m.

Mayor Roe presiding

Roll Call: Present: Cobb, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Excused: None

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Clinkscale, Freeman, Hanna, Lambdin, McRae,  
Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Smith, Wong

The minutes from the City Council meeting held on September 3, 2019 were approved with submitted corrections.

### **Presentation by Camiros – Noble Road Corridor Study**

Deana Bremer Fisher, Executive Director of FutureHeights, and Bill James from Camiros gave a presentation regarding the Noble Road Corridor Study. The presentation may be viewed in full at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSsOLRqXpFU>.

Council Member Ungar asked for more information about relocating Public Works. Bill James pointed out on the map where relocating would be possible.

Council Member Dunbar stated we had a Transportation for Livable Communities Grant with Cleveland to study activity between the cities and a move was successful and those roads are now improved for cyclists and pedestrians. She suggested NOACA for a source of money for the Noble Road Transportation study. Bill James said he spoke with Richard Wong and Noble Road was identified as a priority for Bikeway Greenway.

Vice Mayor Yasinow asked if there were any possibilities where to move Public Works. Bill James said he had only proposed that tonight and it should only be done if it financially makes sense. Vice Mayor asked for more clarification about the SID being primarily residential taxes. Bill James stated the SID is a tax surcharge and the idea is to broaden the buy-in as far as you can to benefit the whole neighborhood. Vice Mayor Yasinow asked if it had to extend into East Cleveland and Bill James said it didn't have to, but it sends a powerful message. Vice Mayor Yasinow asked what the mechanism would be for those residents to vote or choose. Bill James stated it is a referendum. Bill James stated the City could come up with 20% through a TIF, a grant or state support.

Council Member Seren stated he is in favor of a study of the road diet and asked if anyone had expressed concerns about it. Bill James stated a technical traffic study was needed to see where certain numbers of lanes were needed. Council Member Seren asked about RITA Bus Route 41 and if anyone had reviewed how long it takes to get through the corridor on the bus. Bill James said no, but he knows there are routes that connect the RTA service. Council Member Seren asked if we could do signalization priority for public transit in the city. Tanisha Briley said it was not likely because that infrastructure is dated, but she would confirm that.

Mayor Roe stated it seems very unlikely that residents would be interested in funding the SID. Given that the other SIDs are supported by businesses, she asked if businesses in that area were receptive in supporting the establishment of it. Bill James said there was zero interest by businesses currently, but interest should be generated. Mayor Roe asked if there was potential to do the road diet in stages. Bill James stated many stakeholders would benefit. Mayor Roe thanked everyone involved for their efforts.

### **Personal communications from citizens**

Mark Pultesker made a statement regarding the Noble Road Corridor presentation, the money previously provided to Cedar Lee, NOPEC, the CDC working on vacant houses, and his offer to do a broadband feasibility study for free.

Nick Hill from Heights Citizens for Municipal Broadband made a statement of support for a municipal broadband feasibility study and provided the background of studies previously done in other areas.

Greg Huth from Heights Citizens for Municipal Broadband made a statement of support for the city investing time in projects like the feasibility study and the Noble Road Corridor Project.

Vince Reddy made a statement of opposition to Issue 26 and a statement of support for the current City Manager-Council form of government.

Larry Shaw stated he worked for the City for 33 years and made a statement of support for the current City Manager-Council form of government.

Don King from Buckingham Condominium made a statement that the Top of the Hill development will cause their property value to decline.

Michael Bennet from Citizens for an Elected Mayor thanked city employees for their work in cleaning up after the storm and stated communication was lacking from the city updating about the storm damage.

Lee Chilcote thanked the Planning Commission, Kara O'Donnell and staff for their work on automotive transfer from the Gile family. He congratulated service workers and Council for their leadership during the microburst. He made a statement against Issue 26.

Mayor Roe stated that she asked the City Manager to speak to the City's response to the storm. Tanisha Briley stated she was inspired by all the City workers that worked from Friday evening, even in the midst of the storm, to now when work is still being done. She spent Friday evening walking on Coleridge, Scarborough and Stillman, knocking on doors with 100-year-old trees that damaged cars, property and lines. She stated City Manager focus on operations and staff operations were seamless from the moment the storm began through now. Residents have expressed their appreciation for city workers' help and she stated she was proud of the work done.

Mayor Roe stated she directed the City Manager to develop certain policies related to communication and responsiveness.

Len Horowitz stated almost everything in the city is better than it was 20, 30 or 40 years ago. He made a statement of support for the City Manager-Council form of government and stated he will vote no on Issue 26 to keep faith with everything Cleveland Heights stands for.

Deanna Bremer Fisher thanked Council and the City Manager for allowing them to present on Noble Road Corridor. She stated she went to the Music Hop and on Saturday,

5 venues were without power, but 14 did have power, so they continued to hold it. She urged residents to support local businesses and shop local.

Kathy Flora stated this week is Welcoming Week and she read part of the resolution that Cleveland Heights passed declaring the City to be a Welcoming City.

Blanche Valancy, Voter Service Coordinator for the local League of Women's Voters, state there will be two informative forums about the 2019 local election.

- October 3, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center – City Council Candidate Forum
- October 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Heights High School Cafeteria – Panel discussing the Cleveland Heights Charter Amendment, Issue 26

Roger Bliss stated he is excited to bringing a \$2.2 million redevelopment to Medusa which will bring an economic development boost to the neighborhood. He thanked the City for their collaboration.

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

Tanisha Briley stated there are other studies underway. There is a meeting for the Compton Road Corridor on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There is a study in conjunction with NOACA for a Taylor Road streetscape and we're asking for community input on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Tanisha Briley congratulated the Public Works Department and Director Clinkscale on two grant awards received – the Suburban Water Main Renewal Program for \$1,260,000 to replace the water main on Shannon Road, and the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program.

There are new GIS tools and apps online. There is a new resident information app, landmarks app, Parks & Recreation locator, schools app and a polling place locator. There can be found at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

### **Report of the Clerk of Council**

Susanna Niermann O'Neil acknowledged the many posts on Facebook thanking our Police, Fire, Public Works Departments and our City Manager for their focused and dedicated service.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Council Member Jason Stein moved to appoint Joseph Strauss to the Architectural Board of Review. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ungar.

Roll Call:      Ayes:              Dunbar, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb  
                     Nays:              None

**Motion Passed**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 81-2019 (HT), *Second Reading***. An Ordinance to Vacate a portion of the Street Right-of-Way for Edwards Road, to Reserve an Easement for Utilities and Drainage

Introduced by Council Member Dunbar, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

Roll Call:     Ayes:             Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb, Dunbar  
                  Nays:             None

**Legislation Passed**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 84-2019 (PD)**. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Rudy’s Pub for a commercial revolving loan under the City’s Economic Development Loan Fund Program for acquisition of real estate and other assets

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Vice Mayor Yasinow

Roll Call:     Ayes:             Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb  
                  Nays:             None

**Legislation Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 85-2019 (PD)**. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Zhug for a commercial revolving loan under the City’s Economic Development Loan Fund Program for acquisition of equipment and other improvements

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Cobb

Roll Call:     Ayes:             Roe, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb, Dunbar  
                  Nays:             None

**Legislation Passed**

**ORDINANCE NO. 86-2019 (PD)**. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with BNB Medusa, LLC, issuing a loan in the amount of \$396,440 to assist with its acquisition of the commercial property located at 3008 Monticello Boulevard

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

Council Member Seren stated he has high hopes for this development and a successful project. There are aspects of the deal that are unknown and too high a bar to clear for a yes vote.

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated she is happy to support this deal and it comes from the culmination of a lot of City staff and Council's work and discussion to develop this area.

Roll Call:      Ayes:              Stein, Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb, Dunbar, Roe  
                     Nays:                Seren

**Legislation Passed**

## **RECREATION, COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **SAFETY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 80-2019 (SMS), *Second Reading***. An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2019 Energized Community Grant(s) Funds

Introduced by Vice Mayor Yasinow, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

Roll Call:      Ayes:              Ungar, Yasinow, Cobb, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein  
                     Nays:                None

**Legislation Passed**

Vice Mayor Yasinow thanked City staff, the City Manager, the Vice City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, dispatchers and all of their staff throughout the microburst.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Roe congratulated FutureHeights on their events.

Mayor Roe made a statement about the resiliency of Cleveland Heights residents. She and Councilman Cobb went out on Saturday afternoon and were impressed by the attitude and morale of the citizens. She stated she is proud to be the Mayor of the City of Cleveland Heights.

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Carol Ann Roe, Mayor

---

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, Acting Clerk of Council  
/jkc