



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Monday, October 7, 2019 Minutes

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6:20 – 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Roe presiding

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

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

Topics discussed: Report of City Council Members, Legislation Discussion, Report of the City Manager, Student Loan Incentive Research

CITY COUNCIL

7:40 – 9:15 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, Trupo, Wong

The minutes from the City Council meeting held on September 16, 2019 were approved with submitted corrections.

Personal communications from citizens

Mark Pultesker made a statement of concern for the planned demo of a house on Altamont and the amount the Housing Department quoted that would be need for rehabilitation. The Mayor asked Allan Butler to come to the microphone. Allan Butler stated he evaluated the property and the house was a demo candidate and cannot be saved for market value. Councilman Ungar stated staff would look into it and Council would discuss it at their next meeting.

Ari Cohen is in the congregation on the other side of the Altamont house and thanked Council for the demo of the house which is blight on the neighborhood.

Veronica Chapman made a statement about the tree on the tree lawn having an effect on the sidewalk and sewer. Mayor Roe referred her to Allan Butler.

Susan Efroymsen from Citizens for an Elected Mayor made a statement in response to Councilwoman Dunbar's comment about misinformation out there. She made a statement about Shaker Heights receiving state funds and Cleveland Heights not receiving funds, Top of the Hill, water bills, the Refuse and Recycling Task Force, and the contribution from ICMA.

Carla Rautenberg made a statement regarding the publishing errors in Issue 26. Corrected versions will be printed in the October 10 and October 17 editions of the Sun Press and perhaps in the Plain Dealer as well. She requested an official public statement from the Clerk of Council or Law Department regarding those errors. Law Director Bill Hanna stated the correct wording and formatting went to the Sun Press correctly and the document printed is inconsistent with what was provided to them. He confirmed the upcoming print dates and an accompanying statement.

Barb Sesnowsky from Noble Neighbors stated she was thankful of the work done on Noble Road, the Noble Road Corridor Project and the yard signs that remind her that her vote counts.

Palida Moody stated she didn't want to see a Mayor because she'd seen what happened to East Cleveland when they switched. She made a statement about people gathering signature for the petition at Zagara's and misinformation from both sides.

Tamara Adrine Davis made a statement about the violations issued by the Housing Department which was on the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court docket for the following day. She made a statement about being attacked and raped.

Joanne Podaris, a resident of The Buckingham, made a statement about the zoning codes which will affect residents regarding the Top of the Hill development. She stated residents had sent a letter about this and was hoping to get a response before the meeting Thursday night. Richard Wong made a statement about the adequate light and air and stated there would be shadows during winter and certain hours of the day. He stated a written response would be prepared the next day.

Joyce Rajki stated she had 265 pages of citizens' letters sent to the city opposing an aspect of the Top of the Hill project. She is against the current design, not development.

Blanche Valancy, Voter Services Coordinator for the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and University Heights Chapter, made a statement about the previously held candidates forum. On Thursday, October 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Cleveland Heights High School Cafeteria, there was a free panel to discuss both sides of ballot Issue 26.

Laura Marks invited everyone to attend Arbor Day Friday morning, 9:00 – 10:00 at Cumberland Park to plant two trees. She made a statement about the difficulty of getting landlords to sign to plant more trees.

Susan Miller made a statement that Council should not use water bottles, but instead use reusable vessels for water.

Report of the City Manager

Confirmation of the City Manager's appointment of Charles Howard as Interim Director of Finance

Introduced by Council Member Stein, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

Motion Passed

Tanisha Briley gave an overview of the City Manager's Report to Council which may be viewed in full at

https://www.clevelandheights.com/DocumentCenter/View/5449/cc_packet_10072019?bidId=.

Council Member Ungar asked Tanisha Briley to confirm that we've been able to secure millions of dollars in funding which she confirmed. He asked if she was aware of any funding opportunities that have been lost because we didn't have an elected Mayor. She replied she was not. He asked if there had been funding opportunities that she, as City Manager, would not pursue based on the fact she is not in an elected position. She replied there was not. Tanisha Briley stated staff works closely with State Representative Janine Boyd and State Senator Sandra Williams to submit projects to the Capital Budget to the State every year.

Report of the Clerk of Council

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 87-2019. A Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to advance taxes from the proceeds of the 2019 tax year collection pursuant to Section 321.34 of the Ohio Revised Code

Introduced by Council Member Cobb, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

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

Legislation Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 88-2019. A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer

Introduced by Council Member Cobb, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

Nays: None

Legislation Passed

ORDINANCE NO. 89-2019. An Ordinance adding Section 171.15, “Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program” to Chapter 171, *Contracts*, of the Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances

Introduced by Council Member Cobb, Seconded by Vice Mayor Yasinow

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

Legislation Passed

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Dunbar stated that the new traffic signal equipment for the upgrades installed through on the Mayfield Road Signalization and Noble Quilliams projects cost over \$100,000 each and there are still places in the city where those are needed.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Ungard stated the Architectural Board of Review will meet on October 10, the same night as the Issue 26 panel held by the League of Women Voters.

RECREATION, COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Council Member Seren stated he was upset with the manner and timing that Ms. Davis’s comments were handled and cut off.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-2019. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for funding from the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) program

Introduced by Council Member Seren, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

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

Legislation Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 91-2019. A Resolution joining communities throughout the nation in proclaiming October 2019 *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*; October 13, 2019, *Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day*; and October 18, 2019, *National Mammography Day*

Introduced by Council Member Seren, Seconded by Vice Mayor Yasinow

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

Nays: None

Legislation Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 92-2019. A Resolution proclaiming October 2019 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

Introduced by Council Member Seren, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

Legislation Passed

SAFETY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Yasinow said for those who celebrate Shana Tova, she wished them a Happy New Year. For those who observe Yom Kippur, it begins Tuesday night through Wednesday evening and she wished a meaningful fast.

Vice Mayor Yasinow stated that as it was discussed in Committee of the Whole, they anticipate receiving legislation for a student loan grant pilot program in the near future. She thanked staff for their work. Student loan assistance would be provided for 2 years for up to 10 households for those who build on vacant lots or move into unoccupied homes in specified zones.

She stated there is an Issue 26 mailer being sent that has a photo of the Cleveland Heights Community Center with the electronic billboard stating, "Vote Yes on 26." That is not the message from the City of Cleveland Heights and the City does not appropriate tax dollars for the pro or con of any ballot issue. This was a photoshopped picture.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Roe made a statement about Governor DeWine's press conference today to reveal details of his plan for gun violence. The video is available at www.ohiochannel.org and an executive summary is available at www.strongohio.gov. The Ohio Mayor's Alliance, a bipartisan group of Mayors of the 30 largest Ohio cities, issued a statement, "For the last decade, gun laws in Ohio have gotten weaker while the threat of gun violence in our communities has grown stronger. The Chardon school shooting, the mass shooting in downtown Cincinnati, and the deadly massacre of nine people in Dayton are all tragic reminders of the urgent need for change. Governor DeWine's Strong Ohio proposal gives us a real chance to begin changing course and start enacting meaningful gun reform laws. We know some Mayors would like to see this legislation go further, but make no mistake, the Strong Ohio plan is an improvement over current law that will help reduce gun violence and better protect our communities. The plan improves Ohio's background check system and gives law enforcement the tools to act when someone with guns is

exhibiting dangerous behavior. The legislature must come together and pass this bill to reduce gun deaths in Ohio and help prevent the next tragic shooting.”

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Roe, Mayor

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

DRAFT