



## CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

**Monday, January 6, 2020 Minutes**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Vice Mayor Yasinow presiding

Roll Call: Present: Dunbar, Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Excused: None

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Clinkscale, Freeman, Hanna, Howard, Lambdin, Mecklenburg, Niermann O’Neil, Smith, Trupo, Wong

Topics discussed: Meeting Overview, Legislation

**CITY COUNCIL**

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Yasinow presiding

Tina Farmer sang the “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Susanna Niermann O’Neil read the verification results of the November election. Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Melody Joy Hart and Davida Russell were duly elected to City Council for the City of Cleveland Heights.

Council Member Mary Dunbar was sworn in by Law Director Bill Hanna.

Council Member Kahlil Seren was sworn in by Law Director Bill Hanna.

Council Member Melody Joy Hart was sworn in by Gary Benjamin.

Council Member Davida Russell was sworn in by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart.

Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Roll Call: Present: Dunbar, Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Yasinow  
Excused: None

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Clinkscale, Freeman, Hanna, Howard, Lambdin, Mecklenburg, Niermann O’Neil, Smith, Trupo, Wong

**Nominations for Office of President of Council/Mayor**

Vice Mayor Yasinow requested nominations for the Office of President of Council/Mayor

Council Member Joy Hart nominated Council Member Stein.

Vice Mayor Yasinow moved to close the floor, which was seconded by Council Member Dunbar.

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

**Motion Approved**

Mayor Stein was sworn in by County Council Member Cheryl Stephens.

**Nominations for Vice Mayor**

Mayor Stein requested nominations for the Office of Vice President of Council/Vice Mayor

Council Member Joy Hart nominated Council Member Seren, which was seconded by Council Member Russell.

Vice Mayor Yasinow moved to close the floor, which was seconded by Council Member Russell.

Roll Call: Ayes: Russell, Seren, Stein, Hart  
Nays: Ungar, Yasinow, Dunbar

**Motion Approved**

Vice Mayor Seren was sworn in by County Council Member Cheryl Stephens.

Mayor Stein announced the committee memberships for each standing committee on Council, pending the legislation.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Member</b>
Administrative Services Committee	Kahlil Seren	Melissa Yasinow	Mary Dunbar
Community Relations and Receptions Committee	Davida Russell	Kahlil Seren	Mike Ungar
Finance Committee	Melody Joy Hart	Mary Dunbar	Kahlil Seren
Municipal Services Committee	Mary Dunbar	Davida Russell	Melody Joy Hart

Planning and Development Committee	Mike Ungar	Melody Joy Hart	Melissa Yasinow
Public Safety and Health Committee	Melissa Yasinow	Mike Ungar	Davida Russell

The minutes from the City Council meeting held on December 2, 2019, were approved with submitted corrections.

**Council Member Comments**

Vice Mayor Seren thanked everyone in attendance to celebrate democracy and stated he was ready to get to work.

Council Member Joy Hart thanked her supporters and stated her priorities were housing, economic development, sound finances and a smooth transition to the elected Mayor form of government. Her first community listening session will be January 30, 7:00 p.m. at Imani Temple.

Council Member Russell thanked her supporters and endorsers. She stated she will have private listening sessions in residents’ homes. She stated the Census is a top priority for her to be sure that funds are obtained for the City.

Council Member Dunbar thanked her supporters and stated there were a number of projects she is looking forward to.

Mayor Stein thanked his family. He congratulated the Vice Mayor and Council Members on their elections.

**Personal communications from citizens**

Joan Mallick made a statement about Top of the Hill revenue and the school bonds.

Roger Bliss made a statement about his involvement in Cleveland Heights projects and stated he hoped his Medusa Redevelopment project, which he is recruiting new partners for currently, would have Council support and help the community.

Mary Kelsey stated made a statement of disapproval for the current Top of the Hill project and financing plan.

Sam Bell made a statement about the importance of trees throughout the city including treelawns and medians in making steps towards being green.

Mansell Baker, Council candidate for District 10, congratulated the elected Council members.

Scott Weber made a statement thanking Council for overnight parking legislation. One of his tenants who has a permit has received tickets. The Mayor referred him to Chief Mecklenburg.

Joyce Rajki made a statement about the availability of revised Top of the Hill drawings.

Mayor Stein stated that next week's Council meeting would be dedicated to Top of the Hill.

Richard Bozik requested clarification for the financial package for Top of the Hill.

Garry Kanter congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor. He stated his concerns for Council Member Yasinow campaigning against the Elected Mayor issue.

Maria Applegate made a statement for carbon neutrality.

Tony Cuda made a statement regarding the collection of signatures for the charter amendment petition. He requested a directive for what is expected and permitted for future elections and petitions.

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

Request permission to issue a Request for Proposals to upgrade the Cumberland Playground

**Matter of Record**

**Referred to:** Recreation, Community and External Relations Committee

Motion by Vice Mayor Seren, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

**Motion Approved**

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

No report.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1-2020 (AS).** A Resolution amending standing committees of Council and outlining each committee's general responsibilities by subject matter; repealing Resolution No. 13-2018

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

**Legislation Passed**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-2020 (PD)**. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to an agreement with the owners of property located at 2217 Tudor Drive, Cleveland Heights to expand an easement on a portion of the City-owned property known as Nottingham Lane

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

**Legislation Passed**

**RECREATION, COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

**SAFETY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

No report.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stein stated that the Political Influence by Corporate Entities Public Hearing will be held January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason Stein, Mayor

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