

**MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO  
MEETING HELD AT THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
SCHOOL BOARD: 2155 MIRAMAR BOULEVARD  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019**

A reception was held at 6:30p.m. for Councilpersons Cameron and Sims in honor of their many years of service to the City.

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the regular meeting to order at 7:14p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Susan Pardee  
Mrs. Pamela Cameron  
Mr. Phillip Ertel  
Mr. John Rach  
Mr. Steven Sims  
Mrs. Michele Weiss  
Mr. Mark Wiseman

Also Present: Law Director Luke McConville  
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas  
Finance Director Dennis Kennedy  
Police Chief Dustin Rogers  
Fire Chief Robert Perko  
Service Superintendent Jeffrey Pokorny  
Economic Development Susan Drucker  
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni  
Housing/Community Development Patrick Grogan-Myers  
Communications and Civic Engagement Mike Cook

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Council Meeting December 2, 2019**

Mr. Rach noted that under **Standing Committees/Safety Committee** it reads that Mr. Rach stated that Safety Committee would be meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. And, although that was correct Mr. Rach mentioned that the time was changed to accommodate another meeting and asked that the following sentence be added for clarification as to the actual meeting time. "The Safety Committee meeting was actually held at 8:30pm."

There were no additional corrections or additions to the Council minutes dated December 2, 2019.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS for the passage of the December 2, 2019 Council Minutes as presented and amended. On roll call, all voted "aye".**

**Comments from Audience**

Mr. Scott Wachter, was present and thank everyone for all their help and placing on the agenda for passage Resolution 2019-70 "Calling on Congress to amend The United States Constitution to Establish that Corporations are not People and Money is not Speech".

There were no audience comments.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayors Report 12/16/2019

Today I went to Great Lakes Science Center to attend the release of the Great Lakes Hyperloop Feasibility Study. The good news is that it is economically feasible. We can build it for half of what high speed rail would cost \$50m-60m/mile versus \$100m/mi, it is expected to be profitable with a projected rate of return of 6%, with ticket fares two-thirds the price of Amtrak's already competitive fares, with travel times to Chicago in under an hour.

Our country may have been passed up on high speed rail, by Europe, by Asia, but we are getting ready to leapfrog forward. The Great Lakes MegaRegion, with a collective economy on par with Beijing or Mumbai, is gearing up to be the home of the next wave of transportation. Ohio, the birthplace of aviation and aviation pioneers, is gearing up to become the home of the first Hyperloop, less like a train, more like flight through a vacuum tube. And we are doing it here because here in Ohio we are thinking big again.

No more of the same old tired thinking yielding the same old tired results. No more braying that we aren't big enough or smart enough or rich enough to do what is necessary to innovate, to succeed, to lead. Fifty years ago we put a man on the moon. Not just we, the United States, but we, Ohio. And our parents and grandparents dreamed of transporter technology and flying cars, of the great computers that would fill our hallowed halls. But we are instead within striking distance of driverless cars, and we already have technology in everyone's pocket greater than anything on the Apollo lunar module. Do not tell me that we have lost the ability to think big. It's what we've always done in America, in Ohio, and for a long time, in Cleveland, and yes, in University Heights. Whether we were first to start a youth baseball league, or the first to have a suburban May Company, or the first to plan a whole city made of beautiful homes and high quality education on every level. While we have taken our lumps in the last redo of that old May Company, we have stopped listening to the naysayers who said it can't be solved. When good people in this community questioned whether or not our city had the wherewithal and the character even to continue to exist, the people at the front of this room never doubted it: we are more than a city of beautiful homes. And for the last two years now, we together have been leading the way.

As we come to the conclusion of the second decade of the twenty-first century, the 112<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of Old Idlewood Village, we are on the verge of doing what was once thought impossible, or certainly elusive. We are taking this ill-conceived failed development in the heart of our city, University Square, and through the hard work of this administration, this city council (members current and elect (yes, elect, as they've been part of our executive sessions since September), together with our city school district, the county, the prosecutor's office, the Port Authority, and the bondholders, we have found the right developer, a local developer, a proven developer, who shares our vision of something bigger, something better, something beautiful, something worthy of this city, worthy of this community, worthy of University Heights. One week ago this evening, the city of University Heights came to terms with CH-UH School District and the district approved, with all of us together in the audience, a compensation agreement, which will allow a replacement TIF and a redevelopment of University Square to proceed.

If there is one thing I have said since becoming your mayor, it is that no day is routine and that every day brings new opportunities to serve and make a difference. During that same time, we have been working diligently to make University Square happen anew. Throughout this process, we have endeavored to cast aside old thinking, to cast aside the idea that we should just keep doing something that doesn't work well simply because that's the way it has always been done. We reject the idea that University Heights deserves less, because we're small, or we're limited, or we're quaint old Mayberry. We have worked hard to deserve better, and this city and its residents deserve nothing less. I know that, you know that, everyone on this dais knows that. And we're making it happen. We will not stop thinking big.

And with that I turn to the agenda, and give the floor to someone the community is going to get to know well over the coming years, I give you Brad Kowit, of Kowit and Company Real Estate Group. Brad, you have the floor.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **A. Presentation by Brad Kowit, Kowit & Company Real Estate Group**

Mr. Brad Kowit stated that their company is local and both he and his partner grew up on the east side and are well familiar with the area. Kowit & Company find, purchase and look for the right use of underutilized properties both residential/office/retail. Properties are not purchased with the intent to flip but to hold. Mr. Kowit added that their Real Estate Group had just finished a project in Lakewood where an underutilized building was converted into 200 upscale apartments.

This project would be considered a residential development. The current three-story building along Cedar Road would be turned into a six-story building. Mr. Kowit added that with the six stories the actual building height would not be increased. The existing building shell will be removed to create courtyards with amenities such as outdoor cooking, volleyball/bocce courts, etc. for residents to enjoy the outside. The street frontage would be pedestrian friendly and walkable.

Included in Phase 1 is the purchase of the Cedar Road retail, the old Tops Supermarket building, Key Bank and the small retail shopping strip on Warrensville. The project would be completed in phases. Phase 2 may include possible creation of additional apartments, senior housing and retail but it will all fit into the planned development. Currently there is 35ft. between the garage and the back of the building with a dark

alleyway. One of the ideas is to open that space up for Target and Macy's. About 100ft. of outdoor area will be created.

Mr. Kowit said that both Macy's and Target are in favor of this project. There will be small local retailers on the lower floors and residential on floors 4, 5, and 6. Most of the units will have one or two bedrooms and a few three-bedroom units. Mr. Kowit added that they hired a company out of the Carolinas to conduct a market study. The goal is to finish the Development Agreements over the summer months and then start on the construction. It will be approximately a 14-month process from start to finish and then Phase 2 (the Tops building development) will begin.

Mr. McConville stated that Ordinance 2019-78 primarily removes the redevelopment parcel from the existing TIF and implements a new TIF that will provide tax exemption on those parcels in the amount of 100% of the increase in assessed value. The removal of the parcels from the existing TIF will be contingent on a development agreement being entered into between the City, Port Authority and the Developer. The compensation agreement that the City hopes to enter into with the School Board calls for that Development Agreement to be finalized by January 20, 2020. The owner of the project will make payments in lieu of taxes for the purpose of the pending Compensation Agreement and to service the debt.

**B. Ordinance 2019-78 Amending Ordinance No. 2001-28; Declaring Improvements to Certain Real Property Located in City of University Heights to be a Public Purpose in Connection with The Establishment of Tax Increment Financing Under Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.41; Declaring Such Improvements to Be Exempt from Real Property Taxation; Requiring The Owners Thereof To Make Service Payments In Lieu Of Taxes; Authorizing The Execution of a Tax Increment Financing Agreement with the Developer; Authorizing the Execution of A Compensation Agreement with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District; Establishing An Urban Redevelopment Tax Increment Equivalent Fund for the Deposit of Such Service Payments; and Declaring an Emergency.**

Mayor Brennan stated that Ordinance 2019-78 was discussed with agenda item A where Mr. McConville reviewed the mechanics of the legislation. Mayor Brennan added that there may be some refinement of this Ordinance in the upcoming few weeks, but before January 20, 2020.

Ordinance 2019-78 and was placed on first reading.

**C. Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for the Demolition of 2563 South Belvoir (721-24-003) and 2567 South Belvoir (721-24-004) for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area**

Marie Dowling, Behnke Architecture along with Michele Morgan, John Carroll University Senior Director of Athletics and April Strickle (JCU) were present to review the project.

Ms. Morgan stated that John Carroll tennis programs have been a perennial powerhouse in the Ohio Athletics Conference; they have won many championships over the years and have competed against Division Three institutions. All of the matches have been done without a home court advantage. Currently the tennis teams cannot practice, compete with the current tennis courts. This project would provide a space to compete for a home court advantage, will and also allow John Carroll to host NCAA post-season tournaments and providing a direct positive economic impact for University Heights and surrounding cities. This will also provide the opportunity to beautify the space and provide purposeful space that can be used not only for varsity athletes but for the entire student-base as a recreational use as well for varsity athletic use.

Ms. Dowling stated that the project called for the removal, replacement and raising of the three existing tennis courts so that they will be on the same level as the three new additional tennis courts for a total of six courts. This would provide the University with the minimum number of required tennis courts. The intention is to consolidate two housing parcels that are owned and being used by John Carroll and to rezone the parcels from U-1 Special Use to U-5 to match the rest of John Carroll parcels. There will also be an annex storage building that will also have three restrooms.

In regards to the actual layout plan, there will be seating for 150 in the middle, a retaining wall along the edge and the entire area will be surrounded by a 10ft. fence. Water will be moved by the use of a bioretention system located between the tennis courts and Shula Stadium. The trees that are currently on South Belvoir will be replaced once the project is completed and the courts and fencing will be surrounded by low shrubs. To allow viewing and for security the courts will be in an open environment with screening

on the court's front side. There will be three different levels of lighting: (1) 40ft pole to light both sets of courts; (2) 75ft. foot candle wattage lighting for match level play; (3) recreation level play lighting. There will also be lighting on the building for security.

Bellefaire is in full support of this project.

Mayor Brennan added that the tennis courts will have a different sound and light system than the football stadium.

Mr. McConville reported that this project has obtained approval from the ARB, BZA, in regards to the BZA the project received a 38ft. lot line setback for the tennis courts to the South and a 22ft. lot line setback for the out building to the East. Planning Commission recommendation was granted for the rezoning, lot split and demolition on the site contingent on John Carroll University and the City entering into a development agreement. The development agreement will address some of the concerns relating to the time of construction, the types of lighting, hours of operation, and the timing of the filing of the consolidation plat.

Mr. Rach stated that he serves as the Council Liaison to the Planning Commission and was at the meeting when John Carroll provided this detailed presentation. Mr. Rach added that he was in full support of this project and encouraged his fellow council members to support this as well for the following reasons: these courts are needed by the University; they will be a great asset to the community; they will bring the NCAA matches to University Heights; the impact on the community will only be positive, and there should be very minimum impact to the community because the adjoining properties are either owned by John Carroll University or is the Bellefaire service driveway. Additionally, new trees will be planted, and there will be the creation of streetscape items such as stone benches which will be a beautiful addition to South Belvoir.

**MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Accept the Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for the Demolition of 2563 South Belvoir (721-24-003) and 2567 South Belvoir (721-24-004) for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

- D. Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for the Consolidation of 2563 South Belvoir (721-24-003) and 2567 South Belvoir (721-24-004) for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area**

There was no additional discussion for this item.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to Accept the Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for the Consolidation of 2563 South Belvoir (721-24-003) and 2567 South Belvoir (721-24-004) for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

- E. Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for the Rezoning of Consolidated Parcels 721-24-003 and 721-24-004 from U-1 District to U-5 University College District for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area**

There was no additional discussion for this item.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to Accept the Recommendation from Planning Commission Meeting December 5, 2019 for Rezoning of Consolidated Parcels 721-24-003 and 721-24-004 from U-1 District to U-5 University College District for the Development of a New Additional Tennis Court Area. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

- F. Resolution 2019-70 Resolution "Calling on Congress to Amend The United States Constitution to Establish that Corporations are not People and Money is not Speech"**

Mrs. Cameron stated that this legislation was one of the most significant legislation that she sponsored during her tenure on Council.

Mr. McConville added that this Resolution is in response and in rebuke to the Citizens United verses Federal Elections Commission where the Supreme Court case that ruled that Corporations have some resemblance

as human beings in terms of having the rights to free speech and having unrestricted monies for campaigns. The Resolution calls for the City to direct correspondence to Congressional Representatives, Ohio House and Senate indicating the passage of this Resolution in hopes that it will trigger some movement on the Federal level to amend the United States Constitution and reverse the impact of Citizens United.

**MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to Approve Resolution 2019-70 Resolution “Calling on Congress to Amend The United States Constitution to Establish that Corporations are not People and Money is not Speech”. On Roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**G. Ordinance 2019-67 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2020 and Ending December 31, 2020 (on second reading)**

Mr. Kennedy stated that this was introduced at the previous Council meeting and establishes appropriation authorities so that the City can spend funds during the first quarter of 2020. This is in effect for the entire 2020 year because the limitation for the passage of permanent appropriations is March 31, 2020.

Mr. Kennedy added that there will be some things that will need to be encumbered at the beginning of the year for the entire year. The figures are all estimates and will be adjusted as the City moves through the budget process for 2020. The City is not committed to any of the figures beyond the temporary appropriations.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to approve Ordinance 2019-67 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2020 and Ending December 31, 2020. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to amend the motion to be on an Emergency basis. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to approve Ordinance 2019-67 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2020 and Ending December 31, 2020 on Emergency. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”**

**H. Motion Authorizing the Renewal of the City’s Employee Medical Insurance Contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) and Guardian Insurance for dental benefits**

Mr. Dan Finlin, Senior Advisor for NFP Insurance Services stated that he has been working with the City since 2014 in negotiating health insurance cost for all the insurance vendors. The City currently has three different vendor plans: (1) zero deductible plan; (2) \$500 deductible plan; and (3) \$3000 HSH benefits plan. The City received a renewal for 2020 from Medical Mutual of Ohio initially with 22.9% increase, but through the negotiating process some very competitive independent offers were received, including one from United Health Care but they had some lesser benefits designs that would have caused disruption. By receiving the competitive offers the City was able to negotiate Medical Mutual down to a 6% renewal increase. Since working with the City for the last 7 years the average increase has been much lower than the industry trend with an average increase of 3.2%.

Mr. Finlin added that the Administration’s Health Care Committee provided some feed-back to the proposals but was in support of the 6% increase and made a recommendation to the Mayor to send to Council for approval. The Guardian Dental renewal has no change or increase.

Mrs. Weiss asked if the City was able to negotiate for a 2-year period instead of 1 year.

Mr. Finlin replied no that this was for one year.

Mr. Kennedy added that both he and Mr. Finlin would like to have the Health Care Committee be more involved in the renewal process and in monitoring the contracts throughout the year.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL Authorizing the Renewal of the City's Employee Medical Insurance Contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) and Guardian Insurance for dental benefits. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

- I. Ordinance 2019-71 Authorizing the Transfer of \$2,500 from the General Fund #100 to the Unclaimed Monies Fund #101 and the Advance of \$2,000 from the General Fund #100 to the BCI Fees Fund #214 / Exhibit A (on emergency)**

Mr. Kennedy reported that this was accounting housekeeping to bring funds in agreement with the appropriations and not have a negative balance at years end.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to approve Ordinance 2019-71 Authorizing the Transfer of \$2,500 from the General Fund #100 to the Unclaimed Monies Fund #101 and the Advance of \$2,000 from the General Fund #100 to the BCI Fees Fund #214 / Exhibit A. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," except Mr. Wiseman, who "passed." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye," except Mr. Wiseman, who "passed."**

- J. Ordinance 2019-72 Authorizing Appropriation Adjustments to Determine Final Appropriations for 2019 / Exhibit B (on emergency)**

Mr. Kennedy again stated that this represented year-end accounting housekeeping. The General Fund is budgeted at salary and expense levels so these are adjustments to provide sufficient levels to avoid having negative balances.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL approving Ordinance 2019-72 Authorizing Appropriation Adjustments to Determine Final Appropriations for 2019 / Exhibit B." Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."**

- K. Ordinance 2019-73 Accepting the Department/Fund Appropriations Summary for 2019 / Exhibit C (on Emergency)**

Mr. Kennedy explained the chart of accounts listed on Exhibit C.

Mr. Wiseman asked what the adjustments of \$61,000 in salaries and \$48,000 for other in the pool fund represented.

Mr. Kennedy replied those were expenses that had already been incurred over last summer.

Mr. Wiseman summarized that enough just wasn't budgeted for the summer salaries. That nothing is being paid out currently.

Mr. Kennedy stated that was correct.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON approving Ordinance 2019-73 Accepting the Department/Fund Appropriations Summary for 2019 / Exhibit C." Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."**

- L. Resolution 2019-74 Amending Resolution 2019-56 The City's Investment Policy**

Mr. Kennedy reported that it was determined that the old investment policy was out of date and had not been updated to be complaint with the Ohio Revised Code since 2002. Mr. Kennedy added that he spoke with the City's investment bank and they are satisfied with the proposed policy, and further recommended that an Investment Committee be established for the purpose of reviewing and updating the City's Investment Policy throughout each year.

Mrs. Pardee noted that originally the Finance Advisory Committee was developed to review the City's Investment policy.

Resolution 2019-74 was placed on first reading.

Mayor Brennan requested a motion to move agenda item “m” to after item “r”.

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to move agenda item “m” Ordinance 2019-75 Amending Section 2 of Ordinance Nos. 2016-39 and 2019-61 by Updating Annual Compensation Rate of Specified Employees to after item “r”. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

For purposes of these minutes the agenda items will be presented in the correct alphabetical order.

**M. Ordinance 2019-75 Amending Section 2 of Ordinance Nos. 2016-39 and 2019-61 by Updating Annual Compensation Rate of Specified Employees (on emergency)**

Mr. McConville asked Council for a motion to delete the last phase in section 4 that reads “in an amount to be determined by Ordinance” and replace it with “in accordance with the amounts pursuant to the collective bargaining agreements relating to their respective departments.”

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to amend the wording in the last phase of section 4 that reads “in an amount to be determined by Ordinance” and replace it with “in accordance with the amounts pursuant to the collective bargaining agreements relating to their respective departments.” On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH for the passage of Ordinance 2019-75 Amending Section 2 of Ordinance Nos. 2016-39 and 2019-61 by Updating Annual Compensation Rate of Specified Employees. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on passage, all voted “aye.”**

**N. Motion Authorizing the Mayor to Pay the Estimated Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) Premium Payment of \$138,094.00 for the Policy Period of January 1, 2020 – January 1, 2021**

Mr. Kennedy stated that was the BWC premium payment for 2020 and that it needs to be prepaid in full to avoid having monthly payments and interest.

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL Authorizing the Mayor to Pay the Estimated Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) Premium Payment of \$138,094.00 for the Policy Period of January 1, 2020 – January 1, 2021. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**O. Motion Approving the 2020 rates of GPD Group for City Engineering Services**

Mr. Ciuni stated that the rates proposed by the GPD Group Board of Directors and represent a 2% increase.

Mr. Rach asked what the rationale was behind the 6.5% increase in the Senior Architect rate.

Mr. Ciuni replied it was to bring that salary rate in line with what other cities where architects are used. Mr. Ciuni added that University Heights doesn’t use any of the Architects.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON approving the presented 2020 rates of GPD Group for City Engineering Services. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**P. Ordinance 2019-76 Declaring 3621 East Scarborough Road a Public Nuisance (on emergency)**

Mr. Grogan-Myers stated that according to the neighbors the property had been vacant for about 10 years and according to recorders the City has been taking care of the grass since 2014. Last year the Building Commissioner along with other City Officials served an Administrative Warrant on the property. The home is showing signs of decay and a lack of maintenance with ceilings falling in and walls bowing out. All the utilities have been disconnected, and the taxes are delinquent and going through the tax foreclosure process. The city’s intent is not to demolish the home but to remove as much of the nuisance issues as possible.

Mrs. Cameron asked if there was any potential for the home.

Mr. Grogan-Myers replied that the home is in solid shape but showing signs that the utilities aren't on and there being an overall lack of maintenance. The hope is that because the house is vacant and abandoned, and through the tax foreclosure process, the house qualifies as being non-productive land and meets the definition of properties that can be taken into the City's Land Bank program so that it might be able to be rehabbed.

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to approve Ordinance 2019-76 Declaring 3621 East Scarborough Road a Public Nuisance. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."**

**Q. Resolution 2019-77 In Support of an Application for a Grant from the Cuyahoga County 2020 Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) Program in Support of Streetscape Improvements at Cedar and Taylor Roads (on emergency)**

Mr. Grogan-Myers stated that Community Development Supplemental Grants are funds made available by Cuyahoga County using casino revenue funds to better the lives and welfare of those in the County. The program similarly mirrors the Community Block Grant funding, except it is funding locally and that there is no geographic limitation. By using the CDSG grant the City can apply for up to \$50,000 for projects that benefit the community and the well-fare of the residents in the community. The application for this grant is January 3, 2020. The initial public hearing was held in June, 2019 but no one attended. A second meeting was held on December 5, 2019 and a few residents attended. Suggestions included a sidewalk leveling/replacement program, traffic calming devices throughout the city (focused on Silsby Road), augmenting the cost of the signage for the city's new branding, etc. Mr. Grogan-Myers added that initially the Community Development Supplemental Grant application was designed for making improvements to the Cedar/Taylor business district to mirror the streetscape on the Cleveland Heights side for cohesiveness and for the installation of an elevator at City Hall (which due to the cost did not lend itself to this grant).

Mrs. Weiss asked if Cleveland Heights was also applying for this grant and noted her support for this.

Mr. Grogan-Myers replied that each community can have up to two applications from the community, but he was not aware that Cleveland Heights was applying.

Mr. Rach agreed that this was long overdue and added that when this was originally explored about 4 years ago the public meeting was full with residents, the Cedar-Taylor Merchant Association and others showing their support.

Mr. Ertel stated that this was very exciting because this corner has been neglected for many years. Mr. Ertel said he would also like to see the large flower beds like on the Cleveland Heights side.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS approving Resolution 2019-77 in Support of an Application for a Grant from the Cuyahoga County 2020 Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) Program in Support of Streetscape Improvements at Cedar and Taylor Roads. Roll call on suspension of the rules, all voted "aye." Roll call on passage, all voted "aye."**

**R. Motion to Enter into the Heights Hillcrest Fire Investigation Unit Team**

Fire Chief Perko stated that this is an agreement to enter into the regional fire investigation team. Chief Perko noted that when he began his career at University Heights the Department had six fire investigators as part of our own internal team and slowly that team was disbanded and the department has been trying to maintain with only one member to conduct investigations for all fires. The duties of a fire investigator are to determine the cause and origin of a fire (either large or small fires), collect evidence with full documentation, interview witnesses/parties involved, work with law enforcement and sometimes the State of ATF agency if there is crime/injury or fatality involved. There is a lot of training and education required for this position and can be costly for a small department like University Heights. The Hillcrest Fire Chief have been conducting these investigations on a regional effort since the late 1990's. There will be 13 cities involved in this regional team. The contract requires one investigator from each city as well as a \$500 annual fee that will be used towards training, personal protective equipment, maintenance on the vehicle (which is currently housed at the Mayfield Heights Fire Department), etc.

Mrs. Weiss asked for clarification as to the number of University Heights personnel that would be a part of the team.

Chief Perko replied that there are four members involved in investigation processes in the University Heights department eternally and two of those members will be part of the regional team.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to Enter into the Heights Hillcrest Fire Investigation Unit Team. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**S. Motion to hold an Executive Session immediately following this Regular Meeting for the Purpose of Discussing Personnel, Legal and/or Real Estate Matters.**

Mr. Wiseman noted the need to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters prior to discussing Ordinance 2019-75 in open session. He stated that this is because other issues that Council was not aware of during the Finance Committee meeting developed regarding Ordinance 2019-75 with respect to specific employees and their salary bands.

Mr. McConville suggested that Council motions entering into executive session after Director and Council Committee reports are given. Mr. McConville noted that it is possible that Council may take further action or have further business after the executive session.

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to hold Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Personnel matters after the Director and Council Committee reports with the possibility of further business or action occurring afterwards. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**Director’s Reports**

**Finance Director – Dennis Kennedy** reported that the bank reconciliations have been complete through the end of March 2019.

**Law Department – Luke McConville** reported that he continues to work on the TIFF Development Agreement and the Residential Attachment Project.

**Police Department – Chief Rogers** stated that the department conducted its first “Shop with a Cop” event on Saturday, December 14 and it was a huge success. Six students were recommended by the school district and took part in the event which featured lunch and shopping. Chief Rogers stated that he has been working with Fire Chief Perko on the City’s updated evacuation and transportation plan for use in the event of an emergency.

**Fire Department – Chief Perko** reported that the Ladder Truck committee will be traveling to Columbus, Ohio to see the mid-point inspection and progress of the new ladder truck. Also, the home safety inspection report for 2020 is being finalized for distribution to residents. The department will be starting a campaign in the Spring offering free home safety inspection to residents who would like the department to give their home an inspection, and receive information on home safety hazards. The department will also install smoke and CO<sup>2</sup> detectors as well as continue to seek grants to keep the program going.

**Service Department – Jeff Pokorny** informed everyone that leaf collection is complete and those trucks will now be converted to snowplow vehicles. Tree removal and pruning project has started.

**Building Department – James McReynolds** reported the following: on December 10 the Action Pest building located at 2109 South Taylor was demolished, the sidewalks will be prepped for pour on December 13; completion time for the new Mikvah on Green Road is January or February 2020 and the sidewalks have been installed; The Goodwill store project at Cedar Center is ongoing and will be appearing before both the BZA and ARB for signage; the Department has received the building plans for Pizza BOGO.

Mr. Wiseman asked about the complaints that were received regarding the lights on the outdoor patio and other issues at the new restaurant “The Sauce”. Mr. McReynolds replied that most of the violations and complaints have been resolved but the lighting is still an issue that will be followed up on.

**City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni** stated that the Cuyahoga County Engineer has a program for road maintenance on County roads. The program will pay for the materials for the road maintenance (large patch work, crack sealing, catch basin repairs, and this year street striping is also included in the program). University Heights applied for the re-striping of Warrensville Center Road where the bike lanes are and will hear if the City received the grant early in 2020.

**Community Engagement – Mike Cook** reported that the sock drive will continue until December 20<sup>th</sup> and planning has begun for the next issue of the Mosaic magazine with University Square featured on the cover.

**Economic Development – Susan Drucker** provided the following report: the space formerly occupied by Elle’s and located in the Cedar/Green Shopping Center is being remodeled to house three independent accountant offices and a non-profit organization; the Chocolate Emporium will have a retail storefront in the Cedar/Green Shopping Center; small businesses will be continued to be highlighted in the city’s monthly newsletter. The demolition of the Action Pest building has created a site with great potential for the redevelopment of the Cedar/Taylor District. Mrs. Drucker added that Mr. Grogan-Myers was instrumental in the entire project for the demolition of the Action Pest building and project.

**Housing/Community Development – Patrick Grogan Myers** reported that NOACA held its final public hearing for the Taylor Road Study on December 12 at the Cleveland Heights City Hall with final plans and recommendations to be released in early 2020. The first house that is being built by Knez at 3761 Northwood went to ARB and is scheduled to go before the BZA at the January 2020 meeting, with ground breaking later in 2020. The application for the CDBG grant is being finalized for submission before the January 3, 2020 deadline.

Mr. Rach commented that the house located on Raymont, which from the pictures appeared unsalvageable, and which Council declared a public nuisance, now is beautiful and is for sale.

There were no other director reports.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Civic Information** – Mrs. Cameron thanked Council for approving the Resolution involving the Citizens United Coalition to “Call on Congress to Amend The United States Constitution to Establish that Corporations are not People and Money is not Speech”. Mrs. Cameron also stated how much she has appreciated this job. She stated that she loved being a Councilperson for the City and having the opportunity to serve her neighborhood. Mrs. Cameron added that she was excited to see what will become from the Administration and Council working together, the development items happening with the visions that she and Councilman Ertel would discuss. Mrs. Cameron stated her belief that the future is very bright for University Heights.

**Finance Committee** – Mrs. Pardee stated that the Finance Committee met to discuss salaries. Mrs. Pardee thanked Councilpersons Sims and Cameron stating that they brought unique lenses to City Council and provided so much in such interesting ways. Mr. Sims has such talent and knowledge with his degree from Wharton and a certificate from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and Mr. Sims knows his numbers. Mrs. Pardee added that there was never a house brought to Council for demolition that Mr. Sims didn’t want to save. Mrs. Pardee further stated that Mrs. Cameron brought the lenses of humanity through her social work background, and that she had Council think about the human side of things. Mrs. Cameron started the “all geared up” community bike rodeo and promoted the Citizens United Movement legislation. Both, Councilpersons Sims and Camerons focus has always been community first. Mrs. Pardee added that she has seen passion from both of them and that it has been an honor to serve with them.

**Governmental Affairs Committee** – Mrs. Weiss stated that after speaking with Councilman Sims the Rubbish Study will be rolled over to the Governmental Affairs Committee and there will be a committee meeting on January 9, 2020 at 6:30pm. Mrs. Weiss echoed Mrs. Pardee comments regarding Councilpersons Sims and Cameron.

**Recreation Committee** – Mr. Ertel had no report but wished Councilpersons Sims and Cameron well and thanked them for the great job they did. Mr. Ertel added that he is looking forward to working with new Councilpersons Blankfeld and Gould.

**Safety Committee** – Mr. Rach also stated he could find better words that what Mrs. Pardee said in regards to Councilpersons Sims and Cameron. Mr. Rach wished each of them well in their new endeavors and noted that they each served as mentors to him when he came aboard to Council. The Safety Committee meet last week and will be meeting again in January for further discussion on hi-band radio migration, having a k-9 unit, the United Towing fees for 2020, the Auxiliary Officer requirements, Civil Service hiring rules, revitalizing the CERT program and home safety program.

**Service Committee** – Mr. Sims had no report but offered the following comments. Mr. Sims stated that he appreciated the Councilpersons he worked with. In noting Councilman Ertel’s comments, Mr. Sims said that there has not always been favorable relationship between Council and the City Administration and with John Carroll University; all of which posed difficult challenges. Mr. Sims said not only does he want to see homes preserved he wants the City to continue to hug the trees. Mr. Sims acknowledge resident, Mrs. Shelia Hubman for her support, Mr. Sims said that made him who he was as a Councilperson. On a personal level,

Mr. Sims expressed his appreciation for all the support, encouragement and love he received from his fellow Councilmembers, the City Administration and Staff and the City as a whole during the last year.

There were no other committee reports.

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to resume the Regular Council Session. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27p.m.

---

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

---

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council