



CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 2007

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:26 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann
O'Neil, Posius, Ruane, Steigerwald, R. Wagner, Wong

Topic of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo.

Council Member Caplan moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. Second by Council Member Dietrich.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann
O'Neil, Posius, Ruane, Steigerwald, R. Wagner, Wong

Topic of discussion included litigation.

Executive Session concluded at 7:33 p.m. adjourning into Committee of the Whole and concluding at 7:35 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:43 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann
O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner, Wong

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, April 16, 2007 were signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

Mayor Kelley stated, "Before we start personal communications from citizens, I want to update - I know a lot of you are here possibly to talk to us about a property on 2573 Kingston Road. Let me take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening since we had some conversation with a number of you on Friday afternoon, both our staff, Kathleen Ruane who is here. Kathleen where are you? [She acknowledged her presence]. Rick Wagner is in the back, the gentleman in the back, the nice looking gentleman in the back there and myself. We talked to a number of you, but let me give you a complete update to the minute where it is at. If you would still like to address us afterwards you are more than welcome to address us and we'll give you the first opportunity.

The property in question is a property at 2573 Kingston Road, which many of you know very fondly because you live near it or by it and it's been a property that's been blighted in your neighborhood for a number of years. First off and most importantly, early today we were in contact with U.S. Bank in Florida. Ms. Ruane did a lot of this work, so let's give credit where credit is due. They did release a check for the back taxes to start the process to release the deed. The check was released for roughly about one thousand and seven dollars (\$1,007 -) and some change to start moving the process around. It will be received by the local attorney, probably somewhere in the next day or two if not today depending on whether they send it by regular mail or whatever - however they did it. He will then take title to the property, pay the taxes as we all do at - well, most of us do - at our local county auditor or county treasurer's office, to take title to the property and send the title to the Cincinnati attorney at the U.S. Bank. This property, as you may or may not know, was sold to U.S. Bank at a January 25, 2007 sheriff's sale downtown at the justice center. So those are the facts as far as the property as we know it today.

What Council is prepared to do tonight, most of you have the yellow agenda, is we're going to be passing Resolution No. 58-2007, it is an addendum to the agenda. Mr. Malone, do they have a copy of that?"

Mr. Malone replied, "Yes, it's on there."

Mayor Kelley continued, "Okay. It's probably on your back page"

Mr. Malone replied, "Very last page."

Mayor Kelley continued, " That is a resolution declaring this property, regardless of what the bank is going to do or not do in the next few days, according to the property at 2573 Kingston Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance. That's what we're going to be doing tonight in the next few minutes when we come up to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council. It is actually Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH). Some of the things we are going to be working on is replacing the garage siding, repairing the front screen door, repairing the drive shaft soffit and the yard cleanup and we will also have the health department there to see if there are any health issues that need to be addressed immediately. Mr. Wagner will be overseeing much of this project. So that's where we are at. Is there anybody from Kingston Road that either wants or anything that needs to be repeated or wants to address council? I will give you the first opportunity."

"I am Gail Broughton at 2652 Kingston. You did not say what could be done inside because as far as I'm aware from what other people have said, there is a lot of trash and unsanitary conditions inside. Now, what you have addressed is strictly outside. What happens inside, something will get in there

and take care of it - something. Is there anything that the city can do with this resolution or any resolution that can change the health conditions inside the house?"

Mayor Kelley replied, "That's a very good question. If I am understanding this correctly there is a real estate agent who's waiting for the title to change, which it will happen, and we will do a point of sale inspection on the property which will include the inside and the outside. If there are any health issues on the inside our inspector will indeed have the county health department come in with Mr. Wagner and we will have those issues addressed immediately. If there are any kind of issues that are threatening the health and welfare of that house or that neighborhood we will be on them as soon as possible. We will not let them go in. So, the optimum thing here is to get the title transferred which we are in the process of. Ms. Ruane worked on a lot of that on Friday and today to move this process forward to get the point of sale inspection, much as any of you've done when you moved from one house to another here in Cleveland Heights or you bought in Cleveland Heights. So we're moving toward that process to get the whole property inspected both inside and outside and hopefully that will happen before the month ends."

Ms. Broughton added, "Oh, thank you very much. You answered the question."

Mayor Kelley added, "That was a fantastic question."

"I'm Ray O'Neill, 2568 Kingston, I live across the street. Does U.S. Bank do business with the City of Cleveland Heights?"

Mayor Kelley replied, "As far as I know this is U.S. Bank out of Florida."

Mr. O'Neill replied, "It's all part of U.S. Bank. And how about the lawyer, also?"

Mr. Malone answered, "The City of Cleveland Heights does do business with U.S. Bank."

Mayor Kelley asked, "And the lawyer, Bob or John, the lawyer we're dealing with?"

Mr. O'Neill answered, "The lawyer is Chris Babcock of Babcock and Wasserman. We do business with them too, don't we?"

Mr. Downey and Mayor Kelley both replied individually, "No. Not that I know of. Not as a lawyer, no."

Mr. O'Neill continued, "Well, I think a letter to U.S. Bank from the mayor would certainly be apropos."

Mayor Kelley said, "I think you've brought an interesting issue that we'll consider what relationship if any in the future we want to have with these people."

Mr. O'Neill said, "This is four years. That's a long time."

Mayor Kelley replied, "But the bank just took possession of the property in January of this year. But we will - -"

Mr. O'Neill said, "They can put it off as long as they want to. They had action to take over this a long time ago."

Mayor Kelley said, "We'll examine our practices with U.S. Bank. Thank you for bringing that to our attention."

"I'm Barb Apanites. I live at 2569 Kingston Road, right next door and I have the really nice view of the house. In just hinging upon Roy's comment about it being four years. I have had a lot of conversations with the housing department throughout the years and I finally kind of took it upon myself to go to foreclosure last summer and this Steve Bucha was nice enough to put it on the foreclosure pack because it was never even declared abandoned all four years that it's been empty, until last fall. I just wondered why there was such - why was the owner given four notices and never held in contempt of court?"

Mayor Kelley asked, "You're asking me that?"

Ms. Apanites replied, "Yes."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Let me be very honest with you. It wasn't until roughly about 18 months ago when Vice Mayor Montlack and all the First Suburbs' mayors had a meeting in the county commissioners' chambers on the fourth floor with all the players, County Commissioner Hagan, Sheriff McFaul, the Treasurer Jim Rokakis, Nancy Mc Dowell, the administrative judge's Mr. Bucha's boss and we made a big stink about these houses sitting anywhere from three to five to six to seven years - that the process was changed. And that's why these things are moving a little bit faster. It wasn't until about five or six months ago that we actually get a list now that we're allowed to submit houses that are abandoned for them to be moved up on the list of things to go a lot faster. At that time, when we had the first meeting, Mr. Buca was not actually even hearing cases or hearing any kind of foreclosure properties. I know a little bit about this because I do work in domestic relations court which is right across the street from the justice center. I have about seventeen magistrates who work for me, so I know a little bit about the process. I know a little bit about the court system. So this process was an ongoing problem that the First Suburbs Mayors decided to get together in unison and tell the courts to move a little bit faster because at one point in time probably about five or six years ago there were probably about 4,000 foreclosures in the county and there is now about 15,000. They have the same amount of staff a year an a half ago that they had four or five years ago. Now they've changed, things are now moving a lot faster. We as a city are allowed to move properties that are abandoned or in disrepair or a blight on the street a lot faster on the process."

Ms. Apanites continued, "As far as releasing the deed money, in addition to that, are there liens on the property? How long will it take the bank for them to forward?"

Mayor Kelley replied, "When it went to sheriff's sale there shouldn't be anymore liens on the property."

Council Member Tumeo replied, "The only lien would be the tax lien."

Mayor Kelley replied, "That was the \$1,007.00."

Ms. Apanites asked, "That's for the deed. Is the bank stalling because they don't want to assume responsibility for - -?"

Mayor Kelley answered, "I think Mrs. Ruane did an excellent job yesterday and Friday to take care of it to move the process along. As far as I know, the check is coming here. Mr. Babcock, locally, is going to process it and send it on to Cincinnati. This is priority one for them and from our city's point

of view and if they don't we're going to abate the property and we're going to put the rest of the amount of the money that we're ready to spend on their tax bill. Vice Mayor."

Vice Mayor Montlack added, "I will not address this specific property or this bank because all I know is what I've heard here tonight. But, of the complex of problems that we have legally in the area of foreclosures and dealing with it, and it's like trying to battle a 12-headed snake. It's quite a complex. Several of those problems have been mentioned tonight. One of them has to do with lenders who purchase properties at sheriff's sale and often the lender with the first lien is the one who purchases the property more, often than not. When that happens, very often the lender does not file the deed and therefore as a matter of county record, you're looking for a responsible party and if you're the city or someone else it's very difficult and I will tell you this, here in the city, as well as on the state level, as well as in the common pleas court, with a lot of pressure and a lot of communication that has happened, that's just one of many problems that we are resolving now. It hasn't been resolved, but I can tell you, many of us are working on it and it's going to happen."

Ms. Apanites asked, "But, you don't have a time frame at this point?"

Vice Mayor Montlack answered, "I spent a delightful Wednesday last week testifying before an Ohio Senate committee on one such bill and I wish I could tell you that there is one bill that will take care of all the problems. It's not going to happen, but it's going to happen in my life time and I'm not a young guy."

Mr. O'Neill returned to the podium, "Sorry to bother you again. The question I have is the person who walked away. Where are all the housing courts? Is she in jail? Did you guys arrest her? I mean if we had - has she been brought up? I know the family still hangs around the Heights. They are either in Shaker or Cleveland Heights. What have we done to go after the person who just walked away? I can't walk away and not fix my house. I get them every so many years and they are after me all the time."

Mayor Kelley answered, "First off, this whole proceeding we're talking about is in common pleas court, not in Cleveland Heights court now."

Mr. O'Neill continued, "Well, isn't there a case in Cleveland Heights' court?"

Mr. Gibbon stated, "My understanding and correct me if I'm wrong, Rick, but my understanding is that part of the complication of this particular house is it's been involved in an estate. The husband died and then his wife died."

Mr. O'Neill said, "I did not know the wife died. I had not heard she died."

Someone replied the husband died.

Mr. O'Neil continued, "The husband died. One of the kids died."

Mr. Gibbon asked, "Rick, she's still alive? I thought the wife had died too? I thought they both were deceased."

Mr. O'Neill said, "I had not heard that the wife died."

Mayor Kelley said, "But, the actual - we're talking about tonight, the actual foreclosure itself is a common pleas matter."

Mr. O'Neill asked, "So, we don't have a Cleveland Heights case going against them?"

Mr. Wagner answered, "Actually, we have had multiple cases in court. Last month being closed out by the court in March of 07. We haven't been able to get legal service on the [unclear]."

Mayor Kelley said, "As you may or may not know the Cleveland Heights court is separate, from this city council, separate from the administrative branch of this government."

"Thank you. I'm Mary O'Neill at 2568 Kingston Road. I just needed some clarification, if I could, on the time frame when this outside work will be done?"

Mayor Kelley said, "Okay. What we're doing tonight, we're passing this Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH), which gives them 30 days to do the work on their own, if they don't, we will do the work for them."

Mrs. O'Neill said, "So, we're talking 30 days."

Mayor Kelley said, "They have 30 days to do it. That's the way the law is written and if they don't do it in 30 days we will have someone out there to do it probably within a week after that week - 14 days. It involves 50 to 60% of the cases where people do the work themselves. If they don't do the work, we hire someone to do the work ourselves. As far as cleaning up the yard, Rick, we won't wait on cleaning up the yard, will we?"

Mr. Wagner replied, "No, we can do that right away."

Mayor Kelley said, "The yard will get cleaned up right away, regardless of what they do or don't do. If there are any health issues on the property, as I said before, we'll have the county department of health out there this week to take a look at it. We're not going to fool around with that, especially with the weather getting nice and the change of degrees and what have you."

"Good evening. My name is Lita Gonzalez. I live at 2971 Scarborough Road. I'm a founding member of SEEDS. SEEDS is a group of Cleveland Heights and University Heights' residents that support excellent, equitable and diverse schools. We recently ran an ad in the April 19th edition of the Sun Press that highlighted some of the district's recent achievements. Since the Sun Press circulation reaches only about a sixth of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights residents, I would like to share with you the contents of the ad. It reads:

We're Proud of our Schools!

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is on the move and it's moving in the right direction! Well Done, CH-UH City School administration, schools, staff and most of all, our student and families! Thank you for your hard work on this journey to excellence.

In 2006, the Ohio Department of Education recognized Monticello and Wiley Middle Schools as "Schools to Watch," an honor received by only ten schools state wide!

Standard and Poor's recently recognized Heights High and Roxboro Middle School as two of seventy-seven schools nationwide that have made significant progress in narrowing the minority achievement gap.

A recent Parade Magazine article entitled "Good Schools Can Happen" described the strong community involvement in the transformation of Heights High into five small schools, the resulting academic gains at Heights, and the school's "Effective" rating from the State of Ohio.

Professional Learning Communities at each school ensure that teachers cooperate with and learn from each other.

The Village, a program that places volunteer tutors in schools, is now operating in five elementary schools with plans for expansion to all schools in the District in the next three years.

The District's partnership with John Carroll University is allowing it to tap the expertise and energy of John Carroll faculty and students by bringing them into Wiley and Gearity for a variety of innovative programs.

The rising test scores in the District demonstrates that children of all races, ability levels, and economic classes can achieve at high levels.

As a founding member of the Minority Student Achievement Network, CH-UH is working with other school districts to find ways to help all students achieve at high academic levels.

The District is committed to responsible and effective use of the community's resources. The State Auditor has repeatedly recognized the District's CFO, Scott Gainer, for exemplary financial reporting.

The District is committed to continuing to provide all students, regardless of race or economic background, with a rigorous education that will prepare them for life in the 21st century.

Community members can support our schools as they continue their journey to excellence - become a volunteer or tutor. Stay informed about the remarkable accomplishments of students and staff in the CH-UH City School District's schools. For more information residents could visit our website at www.chuhseeds.net.

The ad was signed by over 370 supporters of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights city school district. Many of them are part of the 1,300 households who contribute, volunteer and support the progress of the schools through an organization called, Citizens for Heights Schools. Strong schools are essential to the well-being of the community. We urge you to join us in celebrating the achievements of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. We ask that you join us in helping our schools as they strive to provide a high-quality education for every child in our community. Thank you for letting me address you tonight."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have just one item this evening. As you know, we recently opened bids for the 2007 Street Resurfacing Program, also known as Bid Document No. 2007-07. The lowest and best bidder for the 2007 Street Resurfacing Program is the Shelly Company in the amount of \$1,398,670.00. Your Honor, I would request that the bid tabulation and award of contract be made a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I need to notify Council that two (2) notices have been received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control advising that applications have been made by the following: Zooz Limited, d.b.a. City and East transfer D1, D2, D3, D3A, and D6 permits from Clemshaw Enterprises, Inc., Tom Lobe Receiver, d.b.a. Loft Pub & Grub, premises 2nd Floor Lounge, 2781 Euclid Heights Boulevard, 44106; and, Tsilianidis, Inc., new D1 permit, premises 1975 Lee Road, 44118. Your Honor, I need to make these a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record and referred them to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council, the City Manager, and the Director of Law.

Mr. Malone continued, "I also need to notify Council that four (4) resolutions of the Board of Zoning Appeals have been received pertaining to variances in the Zoning Code and are requested by the following: BZA Calendar No. 3122 Kathy Hancock, 3567 Woodridge Road, family definition regulations; BZA Calendar No. 3123(a) Rysar, 3505 Mayfield Road (Bluestone Development), sign regulations; BZA Calendar. No. 3123(b) Rysar, 3505 Mayfield Road (Bluestone Development), sign regulations; and BZA Calendar No. 3123(c) Rysar, 3505 Mayfield Road (Bluestone Development), sign regulations. Your Honor, I need to make these a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record and referred them to the Planning and Development Committee of Council.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. The first piece of legislation and the only one on our agenda tonight for this committee is Resolution No. 52-2007(F), approving a petition for the adoption of a public services plan for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Inc.

I sit on the board of that Coventry SID and therefore because it could be considered a conflict of interest I ask to be excused from presenting or voting on this."

Mayor Kelley stated, "We are going to ask the Vice Chair Councilman Wilcox to present Resolution No. 52 and then we'll have a motion for abstention of the Vice Mayor."

Council Member Wilcox stated, "This Resolution No. 52-2007(F), again is to approve a petition for the adoption of a public services plan for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Inc.

As you may know, Coventry Village formed a SID ten years ago in 1996. It was one of the first SID's in Ohio. We now have two [additional] business districts in the City of Cleveland Heights which have special improvement districts and those are the Cedar Fairmount area and the Cedar Lee area. This particular resolution would permit the re-institution of this Special Improvement District for another five year plan. As I indicated, the state law permits special improvement districts by the voluntary creation of non-profit corporations by a group of property owners to fund mutual beneficial improvements and services through self-assessment.

The first Resolution passed by this Council was 160-1996 to approve a petition for the formation of a special improvement district for the Coventry Village business district. By subsequent resolutions,

this Council approved public services plans which had been submitted by the requisite percentage of property owners in the Special Improvement District and levied the requested assessments to fund the costs of the plan. The current plan, as I indicated, is due to expire this year. The Board of Directors of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District have approved a proposed public services and improvements plan for the next five years, which plan has been approved by the owners of property constituting over sixty percent (60%) of the front footage of the property included in the District and has been submitted to this Council for its approval. This would be in the best interest of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District and the residents of the community. Section 1 of this Resolution, Council approves the petition for adoption of a public services and improvement plan for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District which is attached as Exhibit "A" and that exhibit indicates that the annual budget for the District for the 2007 year will be \$120,000 and that would increase every year of the plan at three percent (3%) a year. Just to give you an idea of where that money will go: 35% goes to Security and Physical Maintenance; Upgrade and Beautification of Public Areas; 25% goes to Streetscape Debt Service and if you looked at the Coventry area in the last couple years you can see the improvements to the streetscape; and, 30% goes to Administration/ coordination of SID Programs and Communications. Section 2 of this Resolution, finds that the petition for the for the adoption of a public services and improvements plan was executed by the owners of over sixty percent (60%) of the front footage of all real property located in the District, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 1710.06, and that the adoption of the public services plan will be in the best interest of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District and the residents of this community. I offer Resolution No. 52-2007(F) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 52-2007(F) but asked for a motion for the Vice Mayor to abstain.

So moved by Council Member Tumeo.

Second by Council Member Evans.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None

Motion to abstain passed

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Completely by coincidence, I prepared some remarks to give tonight on housing situations in Cleveland Heights, because whether we're looking at the housing situation - which is many situations as personal finances or public finances - those issues intersect when it comes to housing. The real reason I wanted to talk a little bit is that we all know that there is a massive housing slump in the United States, in the State of Ohio, in our region, and at the same time there is a crisis in foreclosed vacant and abandoned housing in our state, in our region and of course all of these things impact our city. You see it in more 'for sale' signs, because there are properties that are remaining much longer unsold on the market, you see it in single-family housing prices that are flat or down, in many cases. It's certainly a buyer's market. You see more foreclosures, you see more vacant houses in this city than you have ever seen. You know from what you've read and what you've observed that a lot of chickens are coming home to roost. There are houses, properties that have been purchased with no equity invested by folks who are 'at-risk' as borrowers with adjustable rate mortgages that look pretty good, when at the time of borrowing, but now that mortgage rates are - they're still low - but they're not at their all-time low and they're rising, these adjustable rate mortgage interest rates are increasing and

all of these things and other factors coming together have created this situation and I want to stress not focused on Cleveland Heights, but all over the region, the state and the country, but certainly we're feeling it here. I hope that folks also recognize that for Cleveland Heights the investment scenario is still long-term very sound.

As of last week, one of our barometers, which is the county's HELP program, a link-deposit program that provides good interest rates for bankable borrowers for home-improvement loans - that is to say improvements on the real estate - 574 households in Cleveland Heights had made such loans and nearly 8 million dollars have been borrowed, invested and are being paid back. That's a very good indication of the strength of our market. Our new housing, which is going up all around the city, by and large is selling very well. This shows us that with solid construction, good planning and we know with our Architectural Board of Review good design, and appropriate marketing there's definitely a market for good housing in Cleveland Heights. There are other reasons for cautious optimism, actually if there is a silver lining to some of the bad news that's happening, after causing disaster in the markets, a number of lenders, especially in the sub-prime area are either going under or if not are tightening up their lending rules. Now I say that with a grain of salt, it isn't necessarily that they're tightening them up they're actually paying attention to the rules that they should have had in place all along. So that we have some lending practices such as what has laughably been called *liar mortgages* that are not being tolerated. You know a liar mortgage is one in which there is no verification of *borrow-ability* if I can put it that way or the criteria and the lender closes its eyes to the facts. So, there is going to be a shake out in the market and that's happened. Of course, we know that this housing slump, from all that we hear is going to continue probably another one or two years and as heard a little bit tonight, the city is very much involved in not only monitoring foreclosed, vacant and abandoned housing and keeping a good eye on the subject property, but actually working closely at reforms that have to do with the common pleas court, other courts, the State of Ohio and legislation and the various county agencies that are involved. I know it takes a lot of patience but all these things are actually going on as we speak. Finally, with the crises I just described, people are starting to pay attention.

From an historical perspective for those of us who've been around, been around Cleveland Heights for a little while, we know that the market has it's ups and downs. We remember the wild inflation of the late 70's and early 80's and some of the other gyrations in the housing market. We're going to ride this one out, so the bottom line is still the same. If you are a prudent home owner, if you do obey the rules as one home owner who spoke to us tonight said, first of all you've seen that our housing inspection program is solid. It has made a tremendous difference in this city and after some rough starts about 20 or so years ago, most of our home owners actually appreciate the home inspection program because it keeps the neighborhood much more sound than if it weren't there. If we continue to make our own investments in property and - - this will go over well (I hope) with some of the folks that came here tonight, if you raise up your voice, including to City Hall, when you see things in your neighborhood that aren't right, be it housing - physical housing problems or behavior problem or the like, you know all the things that we don't need if we're doing our job the right way, then all these things put together are going to help us ride out this housing slump and come out of it as we come out of so many problems, stronger. I'll leave it at that and just say another bit of good news is our city finances are pretty good, all things considered. We're looking solvent and we do have a carry-over and in fact a week from tonight on Monday, May 14th we will have a Finance Committee meeting to review exactly where we are in that regard.

I was trying tonight to at least try and give an overview of some of the things that we're dealing with, not just tonight, but everyday and every week on this council and through the staff of this city. Thank you."

Mayor Kelley thanked Vice Mayor Montlack and added, "One other thing I want to add to your new housing stuff, we also look for what we call good guy developers and we're fortunate tonight one of them is here with us, Ken Lurie from Rysar Property. Ken, why don't you stand up and say hello to people? If you're looking for new housing, here's the guy doing the JCC project right across the street from us. Welcome tonight, Ken, it's great to have you here.

We are going to make one change in agenda. We are going to go with Municipal Services next, but I know you've been very patient here, we're going to switch Planning and Development will go after Public Health and Safety, so we can move you along here, not that we don't want you to stay here till 9:00 or so, but you've been very patient with us tonight so we're going to go Municipal Services next, which is Councilwoman Caplan, then we'll flip flop Planning and Development and Public Health and Safety so Councilwoman Evans will go after, so your piece of legislation can get done. If you would like to leave then, you can go on your way and it's still daylight and you can look at that ugly house for about five or ten more minutes. We'll move right onto Municipal Services Committee to Councilwoman Caplan. Please go ahead."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I'm glad that you're going to stay because I'm going to talk about May 2007 as being Mental Health and Recovery Month. I am happy to talk about this and I have a resolution about it. I'm finishing my 5th year and it's my last term as chair of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board and I know that you know that the more that we talk about mental health and mental illness the better people can address the issues that mental health raises. If we could reduce the stigma, raise education, how you can get help, how you can help yourself and help other people, we can reduce the incidence of suicide, we can reduce the incidences of depression. The more we talk about mental health, the better we all will be and I have little cards and I will pass them out later that ask some question. What do 2.2 million Ohioans have in common? Mental illness. Mental illness does not discriminate based on race, gender, age, income or residence. It's time to face the facts. If you want more information you can go to the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board. It's ccmhb.org on the website and there is a tremendous amount of information, and how you can access help, where you can go [to] hear free lectures, the calendar for Mental Health Month and so I encourage you to do that. I do have a resolution and I'm very pleased about it.

It is Resolution No. 53-2007(MS), proclaiming May of 2007 as Mental Health and Recovery Month; and declaring an emergency. National Mental Health Month was first observed in 1949, and has helped to improve the health and lives of millions of Americans by letting people know that caring for their minds, as well as their bodies, is good for overall health and key to their success at home, at work and at school. The Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board has once again added "Recovery" to the title of the month to draw attention to the fact that people can achieve personal recovery from mental illness. During the month of May, millions of Americans will be identifying the challenges encountered by persons with mental illness, celebrating the many recoveries, and providing good information about mental health and recovery to dispel myths surrounding mental illness. Over 280,000 people in Cuyahoga County, approximately one out of five people, need a helping hand with some type of mental illness; and, the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health System, consisting of over 35 mental health provider agencies, provides community mental health services to nearly 6,000 children and over 13,000 adults. This Council wishes to join with the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board and cities throughout this nation to recognize May as Mental Health and Recovery Month and to promote recognition and treatment of mental illnesses. Therefore, be it resolved by this Council that we proclaim May of 2007 as Mental Health and Recovery Month in the City of Cleveland Heights. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to William M. Denihan,

CEO of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board, and County Commissioners Jimmy Dimora, Timothy F. Hagan and Peter Lawson Jones. I offer Resolution No. 53-2007(MS) for passage tonight.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 53-2007(MS).

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Caplan continued, “Thank you very much. I do want to remind you about spring is coming, spring is actually here, it certainly blossomed all of a sudden. It’s time to clean up your yard and put your waste into paper bags, those paper Kraft bags on your lawn. The city’s pretty much done scooping them up with our vacuum cleaners, some piles do exist and we’ll still come by and get them. Remember to recycle so we can keep our earth cleaner. Cleveland Heights is marvelous at recycling and you separate your bottles and plastics, the things you get food in that are plastic. If you buy a chicken, rinse it out, put it in that bag with your bottles and we’ll take it away for you. May 19th is our special day. It’s the first time we’ve done that. It’s a Saturday. Right here at City Hall it will be our shredding day. If you have boxes of paper, files, information, things that you feel are too sensitive to put out with your other paper. I know you open your mail over paper bags so that you can recycle all of the paper that comes in your house and if you are nervous about doing that and bring it all here and it will be shredded in a great big machine. We encourage you to make an appointment if you have a lot of paraphernalia and it needs to be all paper that needs to be shredded, call 291-2323 and make an appointment. If you don’t get around to making an appointment, show up, we’ll be happy to see you and remember we’re going to protect the earth and try and do our best to recycle in a better way.”

Mayor Kelley added, “Thank you, Councilwoman Caplan and thank you for your outstanding service as president of the Mental Health Board. You’ve really made an impact on our community and the community of Cuyahoga County. Thank you very much for that service.”

Council Member Caplan thanked the Mayor for his kind words.

Mayor Kelley reiterated, “We are going to, as I said, move out of order but consistent with our agenda move to Public Safety and Health Committee of Council, Councilwoman Evans.”

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, “Thank you, your Honor. The next two resolutions have to do with nuisance abatement. And as you heard earlier in the evening, once these are passed the current owner is given thirty days to make the corrections on their own. If they do not, then the city takes care of those corrections. One of the other things to keep in mind is that when these properties are sold, being that the amount of money that it costs to make the corrections is placed as a lien on the property, the money does come back to the city.

First one is Resolution No. 56-2007(PSH), declaring the property at 3593 Washington Boulevard to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. This particular property is owned by Catherine Alice Fulton-Koss and has not been maintained for a number of years and is in a state of severe disrepair. The City Manager and Certified Building Official have further reported that the owner of the subject property has been cited by the Housing Inspection Department for numerous housing code violations on the property over the past two (2) years and that no progress has been made toward correction of the violations. It has been further reported that the property has

deteriorated over the years to the point that it is a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of potential occupants and the public and is a blighting and deteriorating factor in the neighborhood adversely affecting the value of neighboring property. Therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that: Section 1 states that it is hereby found and determined by this Council, pursuant to Chapter 553 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, that 3593 Washington Boulevard is in a state of disrepair to the extent that it constitutes a health and safety hazard and a blighting influence and is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. I would like to submit Resolution No. 56-2007(PSH) for passage this evening.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 56-2007(PSH).

Roll Call: Ayes: Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans continued, “The estimated cost for cleaning up this property is \$6,250.00.

Next is Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH), declaring the property at 2573 Kingston Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager and Certified Building Official have reported to this Council that the residential property known as 2573 Kingston Road owned by U.S. Bank, NA is in a state of severe disrepair. Both the City Manager and Certified Building Official have further reported that the property has deteriorated over the years to the point that it is a blighting and deteriorating factor in the neighborhood adversely affecting the value of neighboring property. Therefore, be it resolved by this Council that it is found and determined by this Council, pursuant to Chapter 553 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, that the premises owned by U.S. Bank, NA known as 2573 Kingston Road is in a state of disrepair to the extent that it constitutes a blighting influence. I’d like to submit passage of Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH) this evening.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH) and commented, “Before we vote on this, again I want to thank the Kingston Road folks for coming tonight. I want to thank Barb for bringing it to our attention. I’m sorry that this had to happen this way, but I also want to thank Rick Wagner, Kathleen Ruane from our staff, who got on this right away and hopefully, this will be taken care of. But as Vice Mayor Montlack said, if there are issues, whatever street you’re on or whatever neighborhood you live on, whether it is Kingston or Berkshire or whatever road you live on, if there are issues in your neighborhood let us know. We are here to respond to your concerns and your issues and hopefully not too many problems. That’s what we are here to do. We realize there are some issues, but in this case a phenomenal amount of work went into this in staff time and hopefully we’re headed in the right direction. If we are not, I’m sure you will let us know. Mr. O’Neill is smiling. I’m sure you’ll let us know, but this is as we said, we want to know about these things. We are able to work on these things. We have a very big tool box sort of to speak and we don’t like it anymore than you like it when things get in your neighborhood and get out of hand like this. Unfortunately, there were some things that needed to be done. Kathleen worked all day Friday and today as did Rick and if you aren’t happy, let us know. Thank you for coming tonight and we’ll take a vote on Resolution No. 58-2007(PSH).”

Roll Call: Ayes: Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans added, “I just wanted to say that the estimated cost to take care of some

of the problems on this property is \$2,900.00, which includes replacing the garage siding, repairs to the front door, the drive side soffit and the yard clean up.

As you all know, the 'No Smoking' law is now going to be enforced as of May 3. You should see signs posted with the phone number you are to call. There is no need to call City Hall but to call the number posted on the sign which is 886-559-OHIO. That concludes my report."

Mayor Kelley added, "Thank you. If you'd like to stay around it will be another 20 minutes or so and we'd be more than happy, but if you would like to leave, please go ahead. Thank you again for bringing it to our attention.

We're going to move back to the Planning and Development Committee of Council, Councilman Wilcox."

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There are several pieces of legislation from this committee, but first there are four resolutions from the Board of Zoning Appeals from the April 18, 2007 meeting and Councilwoman Dietrich attended that meeting and I am going to ask her to read those resolutions tonight."

Council Member Dietrich stated, "At it's April 18th meeting the Board of Zoning Appeals granted four variances, really just concerning two properties, so we'll deal with them next. The first is BZA Calendar No. 3122 Kathy Hancock, 3567 Woodridge Road, in an 'A' single-family district, and she has requested a variance from the family definition regulations of the Zoning Code, to permit 3 foster children in her home. The Zoning Code permits 2 foster children in a home. The public hearing was held and the applicant clearly demonstrated that there were special circumstances. Right now there are only three persons in her home, Kathy Hancock and the 2 foster children. Her house has an allowable occupancy of nine, so there is plenty of room for an extra child. The additional foster child is a sibling of one of the foster children she has right now. Also, the two siblings, there are plans for them to be reunited with their mother, so it would be a temporary situation. So, the Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously determined to allow the third foster child in the applicant's home and so I have BZA Calendar No. 3122 for confirmation."

Second by Council Member Evans.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack

Nays: None

Resolution confirmed

Council Member Dietrich continued, "We should be thanking her for caring for the children. The next three variances BZA Calendar Nos. 3123(a), (b), and (c) all have to do with Rysar Properties. Ken Lurie, who the Mayor introduced before, is here representing Rysar Properties, at 3505 Mayfield Road, what we call the Bluestone Development. It is where the Mayfield Road JCC used to be and now it's going to be over 100 units of lots, buildings and cluster homes. This is in a MF-1 multi-family district. The first variance requested - all the three variances have to do with the sign regulations in the Zoning Code. The first one is to permit a 222-square-foot residential identification sign in front of the development. Actually, it would be a long low stone wall with the signage incorporated in it. This is a rendering of what it looks like [displaying rendering]. The hearing was held - I should say that the Zoning Code currently only permits a maximum of 12 square feet for a residential identification sign. The

practical difficulty in this case is that this development it's almost more like a sub-division that you would find in the outer suburbs. This is not just an apartment building. There are actually nine distinct buildings and clusters which is a unique size in our City. Another factor, is that the actual area that is the sign text is that the message is only 75-square-feet out of that 222-square-feet. The sign is proportionate to the development and it is in keeping with the existing material of the development and that it uses brick and stone. The Board did unanimously approve the variance and so I have BZA Calendar 3123(a) for our approval tonight."

Second by Council Member Tumeo.

Roll Call: Ayes: Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo

Nays: None

Resolution confirmed

Council Member Dietrich continued, "BZA Calendar No. 3123(b) Rysar Properties, 3505 Mayfield Road (Bluestone Development) with a variance from the sign regulations and this is all the same sign we are talking about, to be 5'-4"-tall where the Zoning Code only permits 4' for the height of a residential identification sign. Again, the Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously granted this variance for all the same reasons, the fact that the whole development is a unique size for the City. Also, a large portion of the stone wall that is the sign is actually only 4'. The sign is sort of shaped with a (it's higher in the middle) that's where the 5'-4" is. The whole sign is not out of code, and again, because the materials were in keeping with the rest of the development. I have BZA Calendar No. 3123(b) for approval for tonight."

Second by Vice Mayor Montlack.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None

Resolution confirmed

Council Member Dietrich continued, "BZA Calendar No. 3123(c) Rysar Properties, 3505 Mayfield Road (Bluestone Development) and again variance from the sign regulations, to permit a residential identification sign to have a 15'-setback from the right-of-way where 20' is what is designated in the Zoning Code. Again, this was unanimously approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Because the site has limited sight lines due to existing trees and due to the topography and also because the sign itself is curved, the whole stone wall is curved back so that most of it is 19' from the right-of-way and just the center of it is 15' from the right-of-way. It's really a very small variance. Again, all these changes be completed within 6 months of the date of this approval. I offer BZA Calendar No. 3123(c)."

Second by Council Member Caplan.

Council Member Wilcox commented, "I just wanted to point out that all these variances also require the approval of our Architectural Board of Review and I think they have reviewed the sign and approved it."

Mayor Kelley added, "Yes, they have."

Council Member Dietrich added, "Thanks for adding that."

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None

Resolution confirmed

Council Member Dietrich concluded, "We hope that having that wonderful identification sign will help you solve the property. Just one other note on the BZA is that they have elected Michael Benjamin as their chair."

Mayor Kelley added, "Betty Nelson will continue on as the vice chair."

Council Member Wilcox continued, "Next, I have Ordinance No. 54-2007(PD), amending Note (i) to Schedule 1163.04, "Maximum Sign Areas Permitted", of Part Eleven, *Zoning Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to provide for temporary signs up to six square feet in residential districts of the City.

Essentially, this is a clarification of our Zoning Code with respect to temporary signs and adds in Section 1, it provides that Note (i) to Schedule 1163.04, "Maximum Sign Areas Permitted". The Zoning Code is amended so that the note shall read:

- (i) Total aggregate sign area for each institutional use or residential zoning lot. The maximum permitted area for any individual sign is six (6) square feet. See also Section 1163.06(f).

The change here is that the maximum permitted area for any individual sign is six (6) square feet. The total area for signs permitted is 12 square feet. This is again, a clarification under the Zoning Code. I would present Ordinance No. 54-2007(PD) on first reading. This will go to the Planning Commission on May 9 at 7:00 p.m., meeting here in Council Chambers and there will be a public hearing on this change June 11, 2007 in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 54-2007(PD), first reading and added, "Our Planning Commission will review it, hopefully on May 9th, if they need more time, obviously they could have the June meeting if possible, if they need it and that would be the June 13th meeting. So we're not going to assume they could do it in one meeting. If they need two they can have two, but if they have one that's fine too. We will have a public hearing on this on Monday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m."

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Next I have Resolution No. 55-2007(PD), authorizing an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners for receipt of funding for HOME Program administration costs; and declaring an emergency. Council has previously authorized the City Manager to enter into agreements with Cuyahoga County and the Cities of Lakewood, Euclid and Parma to create the Cuyahoga County Home Consortium to pursue federal funding for housing activities through the Home Investment Partnership Program ("HOME"). The Consortium has agreed to an allocation of funding to the City of Cleveland Heights for partial payment of administration costs related to HOME-funded programs. Section 1 of this Resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners for the receipt of funding for HOME Program administrative costs. The agreements shall be substantially in accordance with the terms of the prior contracts with the County, copies of which are on file with the Clerk of Council. Funding shall be in the sum of Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$8,414.00). All documents to be approved as to form by the Director of Law.

I should point out that this is one of those programs that provides funding for many of the housing programs we've talked about here tonight that are necessary to continue to address the issues of maintaining and improving our housing stock in the city. I offer Resolution No. 55-2007(PD) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 55-2007(PD).

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Wilcox added, "I have one comment tonight and that is at one of our recent council meetings we did pass a legislation opposing Senate Bill 117, which is the new cable bill that's being considered in Columbus and I know there's been a lot written about that recently and there's certainly a lot of money behind that bill and you've probably seen ads for it, etc. The opponents of the bill had an opportunity to speak before the Senate a couple weeks ago and I had the opportunity to testify before the Senate on April 24 in front of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee. They took four hours of testimony and there were over 25 people who testified including many from Northeast Ohio. City of Cleveland was there, Mayors and Managers Association and obviously City of Cleveland Heights. I can't say that all the changes that we requested will be made, but they've at least gone back and tried to redraft the bill and improve it from what it was before. In particular, the right-of-way bill which would require service accessibility to the entire community over a reasonable period of time is something they're seriously looking at and hopefully, will address in the revised bill. Two of the other topics I addressed were the public educational governmental access channels and the institutional network and there was actually a lot of testimony on those issues. There is a lot of concern from communities about having those services still provided under their cable service. I can't say that the Senate was totally receptive to those ideas, but I think they are at least looking at them and hopefully, at least that the bill that comes out of this will be better than the one that they were considering initially. I would still encourage anyone to write the Senate and the House members and the Governor to show your opposition to this bill and that concludes my report."

Mayor Kelley thanked Council Member Wilcox and stated, "Thank you for doing that for the city and the county for that matter. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to ride down there and testify and spend an evening down there in Columbus with some of the people. There are better things for them to be doing in Columbus than trying to hijack our progress we've made in the field of cable. But thank you for doing that. I'm sure your voice was well-heard and well-respected."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have one piece of legislation tonight. I'd like to introduce Ordinance No. 57-2007(AS), amending Chapter 553, *Abatement of Nuisances*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to create a Nuisance Abatement Board of Review; and declaring an emergency. Currently, last year we updated our Building Code to come into line with our state law. It orders that nuisance abatement issued pursuant to this Chapter to have an appeal board for the Building Code which we currently use as the Architectural Board of Review. It would be in the best interest of the City and its residents to create an appeal board specializing in nuisance abatement actions.

As you've seen we've had several of them and given the current situation we'll probably have more.

Therefore, this Ordinance will amend Chapter 553, *Abatement of Nuisances*, and it will enact a new section, Section 553.08 with a section that reads as follows:

- (a) There is hereby created a Nuisance Abatement Board of Review, consisting of the

Chairman of the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council, or a member of that Committee, the City Manager or his designee, and the Director of Law or his Designee.

(b) The Nuisance Abatement Board of Review shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals from orders issued pursuant to this Chapter. All such appeals shall be filed in writing with the Director of Law within ten (10) business days of the posting/ mailing of the order being appealed. Filing of the notice of appeal shall stay the order being appealed during the pendency of the appeal unless immediate abatement of the nuisance is necessary to protect the health, safety or welfare of the community.

I would like to introduce Ordinance No. 57-2007(AS) for passage tonight.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 57-2007(AS).

Roll Call: Ayes: Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Tumeo continued, “Thank you. I’d just like to make a couple of comments. As you can see from the people that were here tonight and the activities that we’re doing, we are working very hard to address housing issues in this community and the problems with foreclosures and abandoned houses and the like. We do pretty much everything we can in declaring something a nuisance and going out and fixing it is as strong as we can be. You heard one of the comments tonight, why are these people still around and why aren’t they in jail? We can’t put someone in jail for housing violations. We can fine them, we can take them to court, but people who don’t do what they need to do with their home, unfortunately we are not in a position or fortunately depending on your position to throw people in jail for that. But, I would like to note and I think a special note of thanks goes to Mayor Kelley and Vice Mayor Montlack for the work they’ve done with the First Ring Suburbs and the various consortiums to get foreclosure issues on the table, to get the county moving. The City of Cleveland passed a law trying to deal with this, the state legislature much like they are doing with SB 117, wants to take away rights from the city. They don’t particularly want to do anything, but they don’t want us do anything either. So, they continue to cause more problems than they solve, but working together with our neighbors and with this county, we are really moving forward on an issue that’s very, very complicated. It’s a problem nationally, not just here and I think it’s important that we thank them for their hard work and Cleveland Heights is a leader in this and we should be very proud. Thank you.”

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, “Thank you. I have no legislation. I have some related announcements, but I would like to piggy-back just a little bit on what Councilman Tumeo just said to tell you that a little less than two weeks ago the First Suburbs Consortium held its annual meeting and at that time our own Vice Mayor Ken Montlack stepped down after eleven years as chair of the First Suburbs Consortium. All he really did was switch places, because he is vice chair, but Mayor Georgine Welo, South Euclid has assumed the chairmanship. At that annual meeting, all the suburbs - there are 15 or 16 now? There are 17 really honored Vice Mayor Montlack for all that he’s done. He gave us a major explanation tonight for the benefit of the people who had come about the one foreclosed property, but what he did not do is claim any of that credit for himself. It really is very largely through his efforts that the First Suburbs cities banded together and with Treasurer Rokakis were able to come up with some of these new procedures that are allowing us for the first time to really be dealing with these vacant foreclosed properties. One of the women tonight from Kingston Road was sort of confused

about how come we couldn't get anything done about this before? How can we get something done now? I think she was a little bit distrustful of our efforts in trying to get anything done before, but in truth the foreclosure problem is something that because of the efforts of people like Vice Mayor Montlack and our Housing Director Rick Wagner and others in the First Suburbs it really truly is that we are able to deal with it in a different way now. I just wanted everyone to know that Vice Mayor Montlack was recognized and thanked by the 17 suburbs and he wouldn't tell you about that part because he is always modest about his accomplishments.

Just a few Community Relations and Recreation announcements. This actually is even related to what we're talking about. The city housing service here in Cleveland Heights is taking Cleveland Heights landlords, any landlord that wants to go on a Lolly the Trolley Tour this Saturday, May 12 to see the interiors of renovated rental properties so that all the landlords can get a look at the wonderful possibilities for improvement on their properties to make them thus more attractive to tenants. This would be a way of encouraging us to not have vacant rental properties and at this point over 70 landlords have signed up to go on this tour. So that's a lot of landlords that will be seeing ways to improve their rental properties.

Monday, May 28th is our Memorial Day Parade. We will be starting off from City Hall at 10:00 as always and heading down Mayfield Road to the Veterans Memorial in Cumberland Park for the ceremonies. If you are a group that's going to put together a float or in any other way be in the parade make sure the city knows that you are planning to do that. For anybody else that would like to cheer on the parade that whole stretch of Mayfield, there is plenty of room for you.

The third thing I would like to announce is a forum on the arts that our Commission on Aging is presenting. It is called, 'We are Arts'. It takes place Thursday, May 31 in the Senior Center at the Community Center from 1:00 to 3:00 and people like Peggy Spaeth of the HeightsArts Collaborative, Joyce Casey from Dobama and a few others will be presenting a kind of an overview of what's going on with the arts here in Cleveland Heights.

One more thing to announce is that Coventry PEACE will be sponsoring movie night all summer held on the lawn outside of Coventry School every second and fourth Thursday all through June, July and August. So from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays of those three months, the movies and live entertainment right on the Coventry lawn. So that's one more event for the family to do.

Finally, I want you to be thinking about the fact that the Cain Park season is about to commence. I'll talk more in detail about that next time because we are running late. If you're not in the habit of planning an outing to see a Cain Park concert in the summer, it is so worth going to one. It's the most wonderful venue to see a concert, no matter what your musical taste is and every summer I seem to hear of somebody who has gone for the first time. Somebody who has lived here for ten years, fifteen years and has never gone to a concert at Cain Park and when they do they wished they hadn't been missing it all this time. If you have never been to a concert at Cain Park, take a look at the brochure and pick out something you'd like to go to and treat yourself. It really is a truly wonderful place to see a concert. That's all that I have."

Mayor Kelley added, "Don't forget when you come to Cain Park the parking is free on the streets and wherever you find a spot unlike Blossom and the Q and the pavilion. Every space in Cleveland Heights is free when you come to Cain Park."

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kelley continued, "There will be no mayor's report tonight. This meeting is adjourned at 9:03. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 21, 2007. Thank you for coming tonight."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc