



# CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19, 2007

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:20 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

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

Council Member Caplan moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Second by Council Member Evans.

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

Topic of discussion included litigation.

Executive Session concluded at 7:30 p.m. adjourning into Committee of the Whole and concluding at 7:33 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, November 5, 2007 were signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

“Good evening. I’m Irene E. Smith, 2228 Chatfield Drive. I come to you representing the Heights Youth Club, as a board member of the Heights Youth Club, and I have the greatest treasure to present to you and that is the report of one of our members and her mother. But before I turn the microphone over to them, may I invite you to an evening community dinner, which will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2007 - 4:30 to 7:00. All of the members of the club and all of their families are invited and Roscoe Morgan, our director, and in particular would like all of you to come if you can and bring your families. I also know that our board member, Joel (Seitz-Agin) Borwick has invited you to come at any time for a tour of the club and we’ve now decided that Wednesday will officially be tour night, so any time that you want to come on a Wednesday, 6:00 to 7:30 please do. We welcome you. Thank you.”

“Delaney Hughes, 3287 Yorkshire Road.”

Mayor Kelley added, “I used to live at 3253, so you are just a few houses away. Good evening and welcome tonight.”

Delaney continued, “Thank you and good evening, Mayor Kelley and Members of Council. I’m representing the Heights Youth Club. The Heights Youth club is a great place for kids to have fun and accomplish tasks. Most importantly, they can be very positive. After all, it is a positive place for kids. Now, I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the Heights Youth Club.”

Mayor Kelley added, “I have a couple questions. What is your favorite activity there?”

Delaney replied, “Well, I really do like doing the acting class that is on Mondays.”

Mayor Kelley continued, “How often every week do you go there?”

Delaney replied, “Every Monday, and each Monday I go there and then they have the karate classes on Tuesday, the art classes on Wednesday, the German classes on Thursday and the play classes on Friday.”

Mayor Kelley jokingly added, “I’m already tired of listening to all those classes. Where do you go to school?”

Delaney replied, “Fairfax Elementary.”

Council Member Evans asked, “How old are you?”

Delaney answered, “Eight.”

Mayor Kelley said, “Third grade.” Delaney nodded yes. “Very good.”

Council Member Tumeo asked, “If there wasn’t a youth club, where would you go on Mondays?”

Delaney answered, “It’s open everyday of the week.”

Council Member Tumeo asked, “But what if it wasn’t there, what would you do?”

Council Member Evans answered jokingly, "Come to City Council meetings."

Delaney answered, "I went to another daycare before that and it was really nice."

Mayor Kelley stated, "This one is really right around the corner from your house, isn't it? You could walk to and from."

Council Member Caplan asked, "Have you met some new friends there?"

Mayor Kelley asked, "Do you have any questions for us?"

Delaney asked, "Do you come here every day?"

Mayor Kelley pointed to staff and replied, "These folks do, we all come here a couple times a week."

Council Member Caplan and Council Member Tumeo both replied, "But, always on Mondays."

Mayor Kelley also added, "Except if we have somewhere else to go on a Monday and we come on Tuesday or Wednesday. Do you do your homework first when you get there?"

Delaney replied, "Yes."

Mayor Kelley continued, "You get your work done?"

Delaney replied, "Yes."

Council Member Caplan asked, "Do they give you a snack?"

Delaney answered, "Yes."

Mayor Kelley asked, "What's your favorite snack?"

Delaney replied, "100 calorie Oreo's."

Mayor Kelley asked, "You like acting?"

Delaney replied, "Yes."

Council Member jokingly added, "I can guarantee you the acting class is more fun than this meeting."

Mayor Kelley asked, "Do you want to introduce your Mom to us and have her come up and say hello?"

"Good evening. I'm Dawn Parker, I'm the proud mother of Delaney Hughes. I also reside at 3287 Yorkshire. I am also a member of the Smart Parents Group at the Heights Youth Club. You asked Delaney a question about where she would go (she kind of hesitated) because that is usually my decision. We started attending the Heights Youth Club this past summer, Delaney as well as her brother. I

have a son who is 21 years old whose is attending the University of Toledo, majoring in psychology. So, I have had my share of daycare. What a program. This young lady has lots of talents that keeps me active and busy. The Heights Youth Club has helped me drastically in keeping her occupied, bringing in different activities for her. By the time I get home from a busy day at work, her homework is done, we can check, go over the homework as well as talk about the things that transpired at the club. My participation in Smart Parents Group was something that I thought was wonderful as well. Because of the diverse community that we have in Cleveland Heights, we have a lot of different children from a lot of different backgrounds attending Heights Youth Club. There may be circumstances or situations where a parent may be looking for advice. 'That this is a situation going on with my child and I need some resource help with this.' We meet, we talk, plan out activities for the children. One of the programs that we're currently running at the Heights Youth Club through the Smart Parents is for the older children - they have a group chat session. The club, came to us as parents, there are some topics that they may want to talk about, we'd like to know how you parents would like it be presented to them, because of course it is our children who we want to keep control of what information is being relayed to them. I have nothing but good things to say about the Heights Youth Club. I didn't discover it until this past summer. However, I did see the sign, drove by it a few times. I'm going to check it out and see what it is. I'm so glad I did. And I am so thankful that it's right around the corner. It's a great place for the children. They are constantly busy. Her summer is full. When I pick her up, she's ready for a nap. So, that's what I have to say about it. It's just wonderful. It's sweet and simple, that's all I can say, it's just wonderful. Any questions?"

Mayor Kelley added, "I just want to say thank you for sharing your story with us, all three of you. It's truly, as we approach the holidays, Thanksgiving, truly a heartwarming story. I have a ten year old, Sean, who is in Heights Youth Theater and we're not going to try to steal Delaney away from you, but I think maybe next year or the year after, you might want to get her involved a little bit. We just finished Children of Eden and now we are on to Wizard of Oz, but if you are taking some of these acting lessons, you're going to be a little bit ahead of some of the other kids. It's one of the other things we do in the community. It is at Wiley and you'll enjoy it and you'll still be able to do some of your other activities. Sean is still playing basketball right now, but it'll give you an opportunity, but maybe one day I will stop by with either Sean who is my ten year old or Pat who is my 6 1/2 year old to see how you guys are doing and I'll probably bring Sean by to talk to you about Heights Youth Theater. We won't steal Delaney away from you, but we'll give her another option or two maybe next year, because they do three plays a year. Heights Youth Theater has been with us only about 58 or 59 years, so it will be another alternative for you. But, thank you for really sharing your story with us. I know the Sun Press is here tonight and maybe we'll get something in there, but this is just one of the many great things in our community, one of the many great programs for our children. So, thank you for sharing. Delaney, I hope I see you on a Heights Youth Theater stage, but more importantly I'll stop at the Youth Club and see you probably in the next two weeks, and stop by and say hello and bring one or both of my boys with me to say hello, probably Sean, so he can talk to you about Heights Youth Theater. Although, he's a little shy, but he's not getting that shy [any more] because he has a few roles in a play, but you'd be great for the Heights Youth Theater."

Council Member Evans asked, "Is there an RSVP telephone or anything if we should decide to squeeze it into our time table?"

Ms. Smith replied, "Thank you very much for asking that. There is. The Heights Youth Club number is 321-club. You will get to an answering machine and leave you name and number, that would be wonderful."

Mayor Kelley asked, "The Executive Director, again?"

Ms. Smith replied, "Martha Eakin. I also didn't tell you that if you come for dinner on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, that is the evening when Delaney will be performing. So, that is after supper that night."

Mayor Kelley asked, "What time will the performances start?"

Ms. Smith answered, "I have the hours 4:30 to 7:00 for that, so I would say it would be earlier than 6:00. Thank you."

Mayor Kelley continued, "Sounds good. Thank you for sharing. That was great. Is there anyone else who would like to address Council tonight? Seeing no one else, if you'd like to leave and spend some quality time with your daughter, we certainly won't be offended. We're going to be here about another half hour, that's up to you. You are not going to offend us. I know that Dancing with the Stars comes up in about five or six minutes. I have a funny feeling Delaney probably watches that once in a while. [She shook her head no] Well, you're more than welcome to stay, but if you'd like to leave you can leave, we won't be offended."

Ms. Parker replied, "Nickelodeon."

Mayor Kelley continued, "Nickelodeon. Mom, I've seen those eyes before, but if you'd like to leave, you can. You're always welcome and say hi to your husband for us. Thank you for all the good work you do in our community."

#### **REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Downey said, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have just one item this evening and that would be to request authority to advertise for bids for the rehabilitation of Lee Road and for a public auction for bicycles."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record and referred it to the Municipal Services Committee of Council.

Council Member Caplan moved that the City Manager be given the authority as requested.

Second by Council Member Tumeo.

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

Nays: None

**Motion passed**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL**

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I need to notify Council that three notices have been received from the Ohio Department of Liquor control advising that applications have been made by the following: Daesu Enterprises Inc., new D3 permit, premises 2206 Lee Road, 44118; Daesu Enterprises Inc., transfer D2 and D2X permits, premises 2206 Lee Road, 44118 from Donald Ziliak d.b.a. Benvenuto Amic, premises 4032 Presidential Parkway, Liberty Township, Powell, Ohio 43065; and, Prime Capital Investments Corp., d.b.a. Next Move Upscale Lounge, transfer D5 permit from Cena Dionne Inc., d.b.a. Monticello Bar, premises 2573 Noble Road, 44121. Your Honor, I need to make this 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.

## **REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have one piece of legislation and that is Ordinance No. 147-2007(PD), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for the purchase of real property located at 3132-3134 East Derbyshire Road, Cleveland Heights; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City is interested in acquiring this two-family residence, for the purpose of renovation and conversion into condominiums pursuant to the East Derbyshire Neighborhood Improvement Program which was authorized by Council in Resolution No. 107-2007. The funding for this purchase and renovation is available through our Community Development Block Grant Funds. This renovation would be of benefit to the City and its residents. Section 1 of this Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Thomas J. Connick for the purchase of a two-family property located at 3132-3134 East Derbyshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Permanent Parcel No. 684-22-074. The agreement is for One Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$138,000.00), with the City paying all closing costs, and also releasing to the seller the Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) being held in escrow pursuant to Chapter 1329 of the Codified Ordinances. The agreement will be in a form approved by our Director of Law. I offer Ordinance No. 147-2007(PD) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 147-2007(PD).

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

Nays: None

**Ordinance passed**

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you. I thought I would just give a brief report on the East Derbyshire demonstration program in addition to the acquisition of this property and the conversion to condominiums. We have had a number of programs, are again, funded by our block grant funding. They don't come out of general funding, but are federal block grant funds and so far we have had eleven homeowners that have participated in the landscape program, which provided complete new landscaping for owner/occupants. We have had one homeowner who has participated in the owner/occupant grant program to provide exterior/interior renovations. We have had six investors express interest in converting their two-family homes to condominiums and staff is having on-going conversations on those potential projects. We are also working with a local lender to provide a mortgage incentive program to make available to buyers - lending for converted condominiums and then, finally, the city has also gone out to bid in renovation of 3150 East Derbyshire Road. So this is the second property that the city - - tonight's legislation authorizing the city to renovate. We are off to a good start on our East Derbyshire power project and hope to have better reports in the future along with the one tonight.

I also did want to just announce that our garage at Meadowbrook and Lee, Cedar and Lee, is now open and is free to the public, but only through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. After that it will not be free, but if you are going to the theater or to the restaurants or shops on Cedar and Lee be sure to use our new user-friendly parking garage.

I wanted to also thank Carl Czaga and Richard Wong for their hard work in making sure this project came in on time and on budget and also thanks to our partners in this venture, the Neyer Company, for also bringing it in on time and on budget. I would actually say a week earlier than projected,

so we're very happy with that.

Finally, I want to also congratulate Eric Coble and Nancy Peppler on their win for the school board, they are the new school board members come January and also to congratulate the levy committee and all the school supporters that worked very hard to pass our school levy. With that, I think that concludes my report."

Mayor Kelley thanked Council Member Wilcox and added, "For those of you who are wondering what the parking garage rate will be after January 2<sup>nd</sup>, it will be a quarter for every half hour. A mere 25 cents for a half hour parking, so one hour will be fifty cents and I think you'll find some of the restaurants in that area when it changes over in January will be more than happy to pay your fifty cents. I know Jimmy O'Neill's (not to give someone a personal plug) is already putting that policy into place. I think you'll find more of the restaurants will do that as a way to introduce you to the garage and introduce you back into the restaurants. When January 2<sup>nd</sup> comes and goes, it will be a quarter for a half hour or fifty cents an hour and you won't have to deal with those meters. We have a new automated system in there that will help you through the transition."

## **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. So that we can make it official, I'd like to present Ordinance No. 148-2007(PSH), amending Subsection (a) of Section 353.02 of Part Three, Traffic Code, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to increase the meter rates for off-street and on-street parking; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, the present meter rates have not been increased since 1994; and the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of parking lots, garages and metered spaces have increased over recent years. The current rates no longer provide the revenue required to operate, maintain and effect improvements to the parking areas. This Council has determined it is in the best interests of the City to raise such rates. Therefore, in Section 1 of Subsection (a) of Section 353.02 it shall be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Whenever a vehicle shall be parked in a parking zone where a parking meter or parking pay station has been installed, the person parking such vehicle shall deposit in such parking meter or pay station a coin of United States money of the denomination designated on the plates attached to such parking meter or the coin or other form of payment indicated at the pay station, if such meter or device displays the signal or other indication showing that legal parking is only permitted on such deposit; and if such parking meter requires the movement of a lever or other action as well as the deposit of a coin or other form of payment indicated as acceptable at the device to cause the meter or device to operate, the person so depositing the coin or other accepted form of payment shall immediately so move the lever or follow the instructions at the device as to set the meter or device in operation. The payment required in any parking zone where a parking meter or parking pay station shall be as follows:

(1) For short-term meters, which shall be defined as meters providing parking for six hours or less or parking garages where a central point of payment is provided:

- A. Up to the first thirty minutes free
- B. 30 minutes parking for each quarter, or
- C. 60 minutes parking for \$0.50 dollar up to the time limit designated on the meter or pay station.

(2) For long-term meters, which shall be defined as all meters providing in excess of 6 hours of parking, including 12 and 24 hour meters:

- A. 1 hour of parking per quarter, up to the time limit indicated at the meter.

Section 2, existing Subsection (a) of Section 353.02 of the City of Cleveland Heights be, and the

same is hereby repealed, effective on the date this Ordinance takes effect, provided, however, that the present rates shall remain in effect and applicable to meters which do not have the new rates posted thereon, and further provided that the present rates shall remain in effect through December 31, 2007. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 148-2007(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 148-2007(PSH).

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

Nays: None

**Ordinance passed**

Council Member Evans continued, "As mentioned, we did have the ribbon-cutting last Friday for the Cedar Lee Parking Garage and we had a wonderful festivity at Jimmy O'Neill's as was mentioned. I just wish more people had been there. The entire city actually was invited since it was posted in the Sun Press.

Next is Resolution No. 149-2007(PSH), declaring the property at 3358 Beechwood Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager and the Certified Building Official have reported to this Council that the residential property known as 3358 Beechwood Road owned by the unknown heirs of Louise E. Morrison, deceased, the unknown heirs of Verne D. Morrison, deceased and Federal National Mortgage Association c/o Schmidt Mortgage Company, mortgagor, has not been maintained for a number of years and is in a state of severe disrepair. This particular property has had a number of violations over seven years and no progress has been made to correct the violations. 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 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 properties. I would like to submit Resolution No. 149-2007(PSH) for passage."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 149-2007(PSH).

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

Nays: None

**Resolution passed**

Council Member Evans continued, "It is unfortunate that this particular property is in such bad shape that demolition is actually being recommended for it. That concludes my report for the evening."

#### **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have no legislation tonight, but believe it or not, it's coming into the holiday season and this week will be Thanksgiving. So, I want to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. It's been kind of a tumultuous year. We've had our ups and downs, but we've all made it through together and I wish everyone a very, very happy holiday. Spend time with your family, be safe if you're traveling and have a very great time. Thank you."

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. I have Resolution No. 150-2007(CRR), proclaiming November, 2007 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month; and declaring an emergency. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States. It takes the lives of more

Americans each year than breast, prostate, colon, liver and kidney cancers combined. Former smokers and people who have never smoked comprise the majority of new cases of lung cancer each year; and 70% of those new cases will be diagnosed at a late stage, so they have only a 15% 5 year survival rate. Early lung cancer diagnosis and management protocols exist, yet have not been embraced as the standard of care; and funding for lung cancer research falls far short of that for other less fatal diseases. The Lung Cancer Alliance is the only national non-profit organization dedicated solely to patient support and advocacy for people living with lung cancer and those at risk. By this Resolution we proclaim November, 2007 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and urges the citizens of this community, state and nation to take efforts to make lung cancer a national public health priority and to offer support to persons with lung cancer and their families. I offer Resolution No. 150-2007(CRR)."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 150-2007(CRR).

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

Nays: None

**Resolution passed**

Council Member Dietrich continued, "I have one quick little set of congratulations. Heights Community Congress held its annual meeting yesterday and always the most fun part of their annual meeting is the various awards that they present. There were three people who got awards yesterday. The first was Sue Nigro, who was given an award, the Lifetime Membership Award. Sue was one of the five founders of Heights Community Congress thirty-five years ago. She has been its past president for a couple years. She is still an active member. Actually, when you look at the effect that this has had, Sue and the others who were the founders have actually played quite a role in shaping Cleveland Heights because HCC evolved as part of their activism in terms of Cleveland Heights being a welcoming place to its early African American citizens, at a time when some suburbs responded with white-flight. So, we congratulate Sue Nigro on receiving that award. The Community Vision Award was given to Future Heights, which also has a role in shaping the future of Cleveland Heights, because they offer input on development in the city and they encourage vibrant commercial districts and encourage our use of them. Julie Langan, who had been their executive director but who has recently moved out of state came back to accept that award. Finally, the Bernice and Lacy Lott Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year went to Reggie Evans, whose latest claim to fame is that he was one of three co-chairs of the levy campaign along with Dale Shubert and Jim Posch and of course, they deserve congratulations - all three of them. Reggie has also been PTA president at Noble School and Wiley Middle School and is currently in his second year term of being president of the Board of Reaching Heights. So, congratulations to Sue Nigro, Future Heights, and Reggie Evans and Happy Thanksgiving to everybody."

#### **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There is no legislation tonight. I'd like to discuss some concerns about Cleveland Heights' General Fund Budget as 2007 draws to a close.

During the past three to four years, both viewers of our Council meetings and those folks actually in attendance have heard a variety of reports concerning challenges facing our general fund and as a matter of fact challenges facing many of the cities in our area. You've heard about decreasing state return of shared revenues, that is a portion of our tax payments which over the decades, as a compact, have been returned to municipalities and as a result of that about which I'll speak in a little more detail later, our city has undergone great belt-tightening of expenses. Since 2003, the full-time employees' numbers have decreased from 505 to 460 at present. Healthcare costs have been contained with in-

creased co-pays by employees and other actions, resulting for 2006, the last full year and therefore the last year subject to a full report, to a general fund healthcare cost increase of only 1.6%. Nationally, the employer healthcare costs increased during that period 6.1%. That is quite a remarkable difference. For all of these belt-tightening measures, you have heard us speak before as to how the Cleveland Heights' employees, the city employees, took those responsibilities on, as well as actual on-the-job responsibilities increased and through it all have continued to provide the high standard of services to our residents that we all expect. Since 2002 the General Fund Budget has increased on average less than 1 1/2 % per year and that is through 2006. That even includes a situation in 2006 where, as happens every several years, the City had an extra pay period, and of course, this city government incurs expenses mostly in terms of personnel costs, so you can understand why the additional amount - ball park - of about one million dollars would be considerable for our budget. This compares to, nationally, the municipal cost index increasing at about 3 1/2% annually as reported by American City and County Magazine. Again, this is a remarkable feat in keeping down our expenses. Despite all of these efforts, the general fund trend that we can foresee during the next few years continues to be of concern. I spoke before about the state return of shared taxes and you can see that in talking about the general fund or all budget matters, we're talking about two sides of the ledger, income or revenue on one and expenses on the other. That return of shared taxes has substantially decreased and will not recover so far as we can see into the future. Prior to 2003, Cleveland Heights received about 1.7 million dollars annually as its share of estate taxes and that is for a period from 1999 through 2002. Now, after the General Assembly changed the law with regard to estate taxes, without considering municipal needs, the average Cleveland Heights annual share during the period 2004 through 2006 was 762,000 dollars. Now, I don't want to overwhelm you with a lot of statistics and numbers, but you can see through simple math that this represents a loss to the city of almost one million dollars per year just from that one shared fund. During the past seven years the state return of revenues in three other funds that go by various names as one sort of local government fund or another has remained flat even though there was some addition from the new commercial activity tax share due to municipalities. But, the bottom line in that regard is that while your family budgets inevitably have to increase every year, the city's return from those important funds, a return of our tax dollars, has not kept pace in any degree at all.

Additionally, we now have, of course, like so many other cities, a large number of vacant houses. In fact, we all know that it's a plague here in Northeast Ohio and even other parts of the state that is taking its toll on the reduced municipal income tax receipts, and in the future we know it will take a toll in regard to property tax revenues. Unlike, the federal government, Cleveland Heights is not allowed to balance its budget by taking on debt or printing money. We are in balance now, but, important budget reviews and decisions are needed to assure that Cleveland Heights will continue to be fiscally responsible and able to provide the good services that we all expect. So, we know that the council must and will be taking a hard look at our finances over the next weeks and months. It is a difficult challenge. We cannot count on the balance that we have now to sustain us for very long. However, you can rest assured that, as in the past, Cleveland Heights will meet its challenges as it has met other challenges. Although there is perhaps more bad news in this message than good news, we all know from our experiences living in Cleveland Heights and our wonderful neighborhoods that we have much to be thankful for in this community. I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and stay tuned here because we will be addressing this problem immediately. Thank you."

## **REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation this evening. On a cheerier note I first of all want to say congratulations to my colleagues, Council Members Phyllis Evans, Kenneth Montlack and Dennis Wilcox. They ran quite a race and they won. The best thing is that we're all back together again and that we can look forward to two more years of working together and doing

good things for the city. Congratulations also to our new school board members, Nancy Pepler and Eric Coble and yes, congratulation on the passage of the levy. I will tell you that I did stand at the poles and asked people to vote for the levy. I just wouldn't give the school levy folks my name for endorsement, but I certainly do support their levy and did support and I asked people to support it and so I am glad that it did pass so that the schools can face the next year with some hope and enthusiasm about how they can plan for our community.

The public parking lot, you heard opened. It's free until January 2<sup>nd</sup> and when you go and use it look up, because first of all it's beautiful and second of all it has this great light art show that goes on. The lights are marvelous. They change color and it's fun. It is sort of an urban-edgy thing and I hope that you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed bringing this project in. Really, it will be good for the community.

I encourage you again. I haven't talked about it for a while to continue your recycling efforts. Remember to open your mail over a bag, a paper bag and if you want to know if it really matters. Do you know that in October - our mixed paper recycling - we received almost eleven thousand dollars. So, keep up your good work and to make it even easier for you, if there is a reason that you missed putting out your paper, there is a drop-off center at the service center. The service center is off of Superior Road across from the community center and there is a place that you can put your paper recycling in there.

I do think that this wonderful community, that's beautiful, right now it is still beautiful - all the leaves haven't fallen off the trees. Really, sometimes it's just stunning, actually, the colors. They all will come down. Our services are terrific. We have wonderful neighbors, great neighborhoods and so I think we have a lot to be thankful for and I hope that you remember [and] your families, remember to say thank you, count your blessings a little bit this coming Thursday and that's all I have. Thank you."

## **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Kelley stated, "Certainly, congratulations on the re-election of our three colleagues: Phyllis Evans, Vice Mayor Ken Montlack, and Councilman Dennis Wilcox. The eighty-three years of experience that I talked about last meeting will now become ninety-seven years of experience, if my math is correct in two years.

Also, I want to congratulate Eric Coble and Nancy Pepler on winning the school board race. I am looking forward to working with them in January and looking forward to their swearing in. I do want to again congratulate the school levy folks on Issue 6 passing overwhelming, the levy committee, the school administration and the staff and more importantly the school board for working on this levy committee. It will be nice to start in January with money in the bank and not have to worry about substantial cuts or programs or whatever. I also want to congratulate Issue 14, the port authority levy, because they do such great work in the community and for such little money and they do come back once in a while and ask for a renewal, it's nice that, that passed also.

I do want to spend a little time on Top of the Hill. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 7:00 at the Community Center. We are still working on that, still going strong.

Some of the issues that came up at the last meeting, vacant houses and foreclosures, we're looking at ways - we'll work on that even more and hopefully next month or in the months to come we'll have some more things on that. The City is working on that in addition to what good things that are happening on East Derbyshire.

Again, Thanksgiving is coming. Again, as I asked last year around the holidays, reach out to a friend or someone who was your friend who you haven't talked to in a while. Call them up or spend some time with them or grab a cup of coffee with them or the person who lives on your street that is a shut-in, spend some time with these people, invite them over to dinner or do something or share a piece of pie with them, especially if they are in our community, but it doesn't matter if they are not. Spend a little time, reach out to somebody and with this great e-mailing system that we have now, e-mail somebody. Do something a little bit different that will make you feel better and it'll make them feel better and it'll make our community a better place.

Our meeting is adjourned at 8:27 p.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 3, 2007. Thank you for coming tonight."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor  
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone  
Clerk of Council

/mwc