



CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF MONDAY EVENING, JULY 23, 2007 RE: 2008 TAX BUDGET

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:28 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

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

Council Members absent: None

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

Vice Mayor Montlack, Chair of the Finance Committee called the Public Hearing to order and stated, "Welcome ladies and gentlemen. We are here tonight for the proposed 2008 Tax Budget. We will ask for a staff report with regard to this proposed budget and ask City Manager Robert Downey to provide that, please."

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. In 2002, the City Council received their visioning report and since that time many of the recommendations that were in it have been implemented and now nearly five years later you had the report reviewed and it continues to be a guiding force for our city. It focuses on excellent customer service and citizen focused progressive government, that is financially strong and dynamic. The budget serves as the vehicle to accomplish this city vision and to move the city forward. As you know, the budget team includes Assistant City Manager Kathleen Ruane, Assistant to the City Manager Eddie Carter, Finance Director Tom Malone, and Human Resources Manager Bob Johnson.

While the economic forecast for Northeast Ohio has not changed considerably since last year, there are a few small rays of hope that have been spotted, despite the foreclosure problem that we read about, it seems like almost on a daily basis, here in Ohio. There are some areas, including here in Cleveland Heights, where housing sales are beginning to pick up in some different segments of that economy - the sales are beginning to pick up and that would be just one ray of hope. The 2008 Budget was prepared with the goal of maintaining the City of Cleveland Heights as a culturally and racially diverse community of the finest residential neighborhoods which are safe, secure and enhance the quality of life for all of its residents by providing excellent municipal services to the efficient and effective allocation of resources. The proposed budget that we're talking about, your Honor, this year is a balanced budget of approximately \$44,101,132.00.

Our current contracts with our bargaining groups are fixed and in place through 2008, 2009 and 2010. On the other hand energy costs and health care costs continue to need close supervision and monitoring by the staff. The detailed line item budget for each department has been reviewed by the City Council. Therefore, we will continue to review with you, the city's financial progress on a monthly basis and we will be able to make any adjustments that are necessary later this fall when the 2008 appropriation ordinance is considered. Nevertheless, we continue to keep our belts tightened. Your Honor, if any members of council would have any questions I would be more than happy to answer them at this time."

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, Mr. Downey. Do any members of council have any questions? Apparently not, thank you for that report. At this time we will open the proceedings up for any public comment or questions. If there are any members of the public who wish to ask a question or comment, please come to the podium, state your name and address and do so. Are there any members of the public here who wish to or any folks in the audience who wish to ask a question or comment? Seeing no indication of that, the public hearing portion is closed. Are there any final questions or comments from members of council? Seeing none indicated, we thank the staff for its work and this Public Hearing is closed at 7:34 p.m."

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Montlack, Vice Mayor
Chair, Planning and Development Committee

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

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