

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo.

Council Members present: Roe, Seren, Stephens, Yasinow

Joining via teleconference: Ungar

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Smith

Mayor Stephens motioned to move to Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to consider the terms of a lease of City-owned real property. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roe.

Roll Call: Ayes: Roe, Seren, Stephens, Yasinow

Joining via teleconference: Ungar

Staff present: Briley, Freeman, Lambdin, Mannarino, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Smith

Councilwoman Yasinow moved to end executive session. That was seconded by Councilwoman Roe.

Roll Call: Ayes: Roe, Seren, Stephens, Yasinow

Nays: None

Executive Session adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:57 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Roe, Seren, Stephens, Yasinow

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Smith

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to Cleveland Heights City Council's April 17, 2017 regular Council meeting. We apologize for the delay in our start this evening, but we had several significant matters to discuss that might involve litigation and so, therefore, Council needed to be fully informed by staff and legal counsel. Madam Clerk, would you call the roll?"

Roll Call: Present: Roe, Seren, Stephens, Yasinow

Excused: Dunbar, Stein, Ungar

Mayor Stephens stated, "We have three members of Council not available this evening. One is doing the Boston Marathon. Another is communicating with the Lord and the third is pursuing – what did you call it?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Justice?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "Well, litigation is not always justice."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Pursuing litigation then."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And so we, based on their commitments, their prior commitments, we excuse them. Next on our agenda is approval of the regular minutes of Council. I believe our remaining scribe has sent her recommendations to the Clerk. And finally we have one of the most important things that we have at every Council meeting – communication from our citizens and/or people who do business in the community. At this time, if you're interested in speaking to us, I'd like to welcome you to the podium on my left or your right, and you should come to the microphone and indicate your name and your address for us, and speak three minutes or less if you're interested in speaking to us. Is there anyone who would like to share some information or communicate with City Council this evening? Yes, sir, if you'd make your way to the podium, I'd appreciate that."

Dr. Andrew Gross stated, "Good evening. My name is Dr. Andrew Gross, 2165 Chatfield Drive, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where my wife and I have resided for the past 49 years. As a taxpayer, I'm interested in big issues and I'm hoping things like economic development, where we are sitting, Severance Mall and potholes which are important to every driver in the City are taken care of. I'm bringing two minor issues. I don't believe there will be resolution of either, but I mention it. I was here two weeks ago and left a formal letter with an enclosure for the Mayor, for the City Manager and for the Director of Communications and Public Relations. When a week later, I did not receive an answer from any of the three, I thought I would give a call to the Public Relations lady, Ms. Susanna Niermann O'Neil and she kindly answered and she said she would consider responding. I also called the Mayor's secretary and Ms. Jennifer Williams kindly advised me that she believed the letter was received. The letter included an article from the New York Times, a long story about Maplewood, New Jersey and other cities which are considered an unusual and very minor issue. It has to do with leaf blowers, and while there will be howling from both homeowners and from many contractors as well as the City itself which is engaged in that, I just thought I would mention that the article has some strong

points about a) noise pollution and b) air pollution. So, all I'm asking here is for you to consider that letter and eventually to respond to it and I appreciate your time and courtesy. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else who would like to speak to Council? Yes, ma'am."

Susan Sanders stated, "Good evening. My name is Susan Sanders. I live at 1179 Pennfield Road and tonight I'm here representing Noble Neighbors. I'd like to thank all of the individuals in the City departments that worked to ensure that mulch was delivered to four of the pocket gardens that Noble Neighbors maintains. Our volunteers have spread the mulch and freshened up the gardens and with the support of Future Heights' mini grant, we'll be planting annuals to ensure that the gardens are ablaze with color, inviting to welcome all who participate in We Are Noble, our third annual community event highlighting the many assets of the Noble Neighborhood. So, I would invite you all to mark your calendars for May 19, 20 and 21 and find some time to participate in this great event, and we will have more information forthcoming. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak to Council this evening? If not, I will close this section of the public meeting and we will move on to the report of the City Manager."

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

Tanisha Briley stated, "Nothing to report this evening, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next we move to the report of the Clerk of Council or the Deputy or Acting Clerk of Council. How many hats do you wear, Susanna? About four or five?"

Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated, "As many as I can handle."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Is there anything you would like to share with us this evening?"

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

Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated, "I am notifying Council that a resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals has been received pertaining to variances in the Zoning Code and is requested by the following: BZA Cal. No. 3414: Charles Zuchowski d.b.a. May Lee Building, 2490 Lee Blvd. to permit a storage facility; and this is as a Matter of Record."

**Matter of Record**

Mayor Stephens stated, "This is being referred to the Planning and Development Committee of Council at this time. We will not take action this evening. We're referring it to a special meeting that will be next Monday, April 24 at 7:00 in this Chamber. At this time, we will also be considering a series of bond issues that are before us for reading this evening. Moving to the next committee reports, as a part of our program, Planning and Development Committee, Mr. Seren, I believe you will be taking care of that as well this evening."

### **Report of the Planning and Development Committee**

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I would like to offer for first reading only an ordinance amending Subsection a of Section 1321.01, *Permit Required; Fee* of Chapter 1321, "Fences," of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to raise the fee for permits of commercial fences and to amend Ordinance No. 25-2009 to add certain fees for other procedures and services pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the Zoning Code; and declaring an emergency. So, this changes the fee from, well, changes the fee to \$50 for constructing a fence on residential property and to \$80 for constructing a fence on commercial property and also adds three fees for certain permits – that would be parking a recreational vehicle in a residential district, annual fee of \$25; to garage a truck, an annual fee of \$25; and for a chicken coop and run for \$50. I offer that for first reading."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Now we can move to the next resolution."

Councilman Seren stated, "All right. Resolution Number 40-2017. This is a resolution authorizing – this is also for first reading – a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with RHHJ Productions LLC (dba Rib Cage) to add outdoor dining at 2214 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights; and declaring an emergency. I offer that for first reading."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Resolution Number 40-2017 is first reading. Next, if there are no further comments for Planning and Development Committee."

Councilman Seren stated, "No, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "We'll move to Public Safety and Health Committee and we'll continue with you, Mr. Seren."

### **Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee**

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. I offer this Ordinance Number 38-2017 for second reading and I move to pass Ordinance Number 38-2017 amending Chapter 1347, "Certificate of Occupancy," of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights by enacting a new Subsection 1347.02(e) which will prohibit the issuance of Certificate of Occupancy for structures that are intended to be used for residential occupancy as rentals if they have a

certified delinquent property tax balance or unpaid liens on the County Real Property Tax duplicate unless they're in a payment plan with the County Treasurer, or if they have an unpaid balance for nuisance abatement costs imposed by the City and also creating an obligation for the Building Commissioner to notify a tenant that this action is being taken to refuse or reject an application for that occupancy permit. So, I offer this and I move to approve this ordinance."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, would you call the roll please?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Seren, Stephens, Yasinow, Roe

Nays: None

**Ordinance Passed**

Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated "Four votes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This motion passes and in 30 days, it will be the law in Cleveland Heights. I'd like to say to the community that this is a step in the right direction to proactively say to people who generate cash flow from properties that they rent that it is no longer acceptable not to pay the community their fair share. You must maintain your property correctly. So, if you have code violations and are tax delinquent, you will not be able to rent this property in Cleveland Heights after a period of time. You need to bring your property into order and you need to pay your public obligations. I want to give special recognition to my colleague Councilman Seren for staying on top of this and making sure it happened in our community. Special thanks to our neighbors in South Euclid for leading forward in this cause. And if you're out there and you're even \$5,000 tax delinquent, we will find you and when you come up for renewal with your occupancy permit, we will not renew it until you pay your taxes. Moving along, Councilman Seren, Resolution Number 41-2017."

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. This will be also for first reading only, Resolution Number 41-2017 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Lebanon Ford, for the purchase of three new, 2017 Ford Utility Explorers for the Police Department through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. And the total cost not to exceed \$79,806. So, I offer that for first reading this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. If there's nothing else from you."

Councilman Seren stated, "One thing. I'd just like to thank all of you, thanking my colleagues, for supporting that Certificate of Occupancy legislation. I really appreciate it."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Now we move to Administrative Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe."

### **Report of the Administrative Services Committee**

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Yes, there are no appointment for tonight, but I did want to announce that the Administrative Services Committee will be meeting at 800 a.m. this coming Friday, April 21, to consider again the legislation related to the establishment of the Charter Review Commission."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. So, if you want to get up early and learn more about the Charter Review Commission activity in this discussion, and the discussion always promises to be lively, please join us at 8:00 a.m. here at City Hall."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Bring your own coffee."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "No."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next we move to Community Relations and Recreation Committee of Council. That would be you. You're the only standing member now."

### **Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee**

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I'm the only one left in Community Relations."

Mayor Stephens stated, "If you'd go ahead please, ma'am."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Nothing to report on Community Relations this evening."

Mayor Stephens stated, "That was easy. However, you're next section will not be so easy."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "No, it won't."

Mayor Stephens stated, "So, Finance Committee is our next reporting committee."

### **Report of the Finance Committee**

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Alrighty. We've got a series of bonds for second and a bond legislation on second reading only. Given that this has already been lengthily discussed on the first reading, I will just hit the quick highlights. The first ordinance for second reading this evening is Ordinance Number 31-2017. This is an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$115,000 for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring motor vehicles for use by the City's Police Department together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates for said bonds being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in each of the years of 2018 through 2022. That is Ordinance Number 31-2017 on second reading only.

Next up – Ordinance Number 32-2017. This is on second reading only. This is an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$255,000 for the purpose of paying costs of improving streets and roads in the City by reconstructing, grading, draining, paving and making other improvements as designated in the plans approved or to be approved by Council including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates for said bonds being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in each of the years of 2018 through 2028.

Next up – there is a Cavs game - Ordinance Number 33-2017 on second reading only. This is an ordinance for the issuance and sale of bonds of the City in an aggregate not to exceed \$360,000 for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring motor vehicles and equipment for use in performing the functions of the City's Department of Public Works; together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates for said bonds being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable for the years of 2018 through 2027.

Next up – Ordinance Number 34-2017 on second reading only. This is an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring equipment for use by the City's Police Department; together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates of said bonds being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in the years of 2018 through 2027.

Next up – Ordinance Number 35-2017 on second reading only this evening. This is an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$65,000 for the purpose of paying costs of installing and improvement of sidewalks at

the City Hall Complex; together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in each of the years of 2018 through 2027.

All right. Ordinance Number 36-2017 on second reading only. This is an ordinance for the issuance and sale of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing fire hoses and nozzles at the City's fire station facilities; together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, including the payment of expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds with the principal payment dates being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in each of the years of 2018 through 2027.

And the last bond ordinance for consideration this evening is 37-2017 on second reading only for the issuance and sale of bonds in the aggregate principal not to exceed \$355,000 for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring motor vehicles and related equipment for use by the City's Fire Department in providing emergency medical services, with the principal payment dates of said bonds being December 1 in each of the years in which principal on bonds is payable in the years of 2018 through 2027. That is the last of the bond ordinances on second reading tonight."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We will take up these on the third hearing next week. Next we move out of Finance and into Municipal Services Committee. So, if you would continue, Councilwoman Yasinow."

#### **Report of the Municipal Services Committee**

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "With pleasure. This is also for second reading only. This is a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Energy Service Design-Build Agreement with Evans Energy; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, pursuant to Resolution No. 6-2017, the City Manager entered negotiations with Evans Energy for an energy conservation project identified in its proposed Scope of Work, dated September 16, 2016, and submitted in response to the City's request for proposals; and whereas, said project would result in increased energy efficiency, equipment reliability, and reduced energy costs, the City Manager would be authorized to execute a Professional Energy Service Design-Build Agreement with Evans Energy in an amount not to exceed \$5,445,562."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay, we will not be voting on that. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us this evening, Councilwoman Yasinow?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Several things, Your Honor. First and foremost, I just wish to piggyback on the earlier statements and sentiments of the Mayor and of Councilman Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "I've heard it both ways."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "How do you pronounce it?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Both ways."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Okay. Seren, Councilman Seren. How excited I am about this piece of legislation for Certificate of Occupancy. I'm grateful to Councilman Seren for suggesting it and the City of South Euclid for leading the way on this. It's a way to guarantee that we are a community of good and responsible citizens and to me, one of the most basic touchstones of being a good and responsible citizen in the City of Cleveland Heights is paying your taxes and taking care of your property. No man is an island and certainly not in this City. The value of the property next door directly impacts the quality of life and the value of the property and the house in which we live. I view this as a very important step and we cannot... being able to rent out your property is not a privilege. It is a right that comes with responsibilities in the City of Cleveland Heights and I'm very excited to see us having more options to deal with landlords who are not doing their part in this City. I'm very excited about this and to see how it works with our administration with the potential of expanding it down the road to include our commercial tenants as well because we know that sometimes there can be problem landlords not just in the residential sense, but also the commercial, but I do view this as a very positive step forward and I'm looking forward to seeing how this program goes. That's number one.

Number two – of course I would be remiss if I did not mention that there is the Cleveland Heights team at the Reaching Heights Spelling Bee. That will take place this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Wiley High School campus. Your team will be made up of only the best spellers who are free this Wednesday evening. That includes myself, Councilwoman Roe and Police Chief Annette Mecklenburg who last year was our first speller and correctly spelled the word, 'affidavit' I've been told. So, we clearly have a high bar to reach and I'm looking forward to seeing how we do on Wednesday night.

I also want to take a moment and to congratulate Councilwoman Mary Dunbar who could not be here this evening. She is participating, I believe, in her – what – third consecutive, possibly fourth Boston Marathon. This is an incredible achievement for anybody. I don't even like the thought of walking 26.2 miles."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I like the thought."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Eh – even that I find taxing. So, I’m very sure I join all my colleagues in saying how thrilled we are for her. I also would be remiss if I didn’t mention that this is the fourth anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing in which three Americans including an eight-year-old boy lost their lives. So, this is a triumph for not only Councilwoman Dunbar or our City, but also for our nation in coming together and continuing to do something that we love, and something that defines us and we’re not going to let terrorists, petty dictators, people who try to dissuade us from our way of life even if that means running 26.2 miles to prove it.

And, for those who celebrate, I hope they had a Happy Easter, Happy Passover and finally, and I’m certain that Mayor Stephens will be touching on this on just the absolutely tragic events that took place in our neighboring municipality, the City of Cleveland yesterday in which a 74-year-old man walking home from Easter dinner lost his life for no good reason. It’s sick. It’s wrong. I think during this holiday season leads many of us to question why and to kind of also ask that question, ‘There, but for the grace of God, go I.’ Gun violence is an epidemic in our country and I thoroughly respect and understand the rights of the Second Amendment, but that does not mean that we should not have common sense in place to protect a 74-year-old man walking home from Easter dinner. So, I’m certain we will hear more comments on this. To say our thoughts and prayers are with the family is a true statement, but sometimes the words just get a little hollow. But at this point, other than saying that at the moment, I’m not certain what we can do other than I hope that those listening, those that spent time with family over the weekend, just let them know that they love them. That is everything tonight.”

### **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. I’ll stay with your last comment. The granddaughter of the gentleman who lost his life...”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Mr. Godwin?”

Mayor Stephens stated, “...is a staff person here at the City of Cleveland Heights.”

Susanna Niermann O’Neil stated, “No, Cheryl, the daughter.”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “The daughter?”

Mayor Stephens stated, “The daughter. I thought it was granddaughter. I park near her occasionally because she likes to park in the front where I do. I, when Susanna and I talked earlier today, she mentioned the last name again and so she told me that one of our staff is who lost their family. And so this is a tragedy that hits home. There is that description that there’s only six degrees of separation, but lately it’s been getting shorter and shorter and so,

this is one of the Cleveland Heights' own whose father is no longer part of their circle and for those of us who've lost a parent, there is nothing more devastating than that. It takes years to get well from that. You automatically reach out to speak to them and to touch them and to set something aside for them and so, as your parents get older, you try to prepare yourself for that loss, but when they're taken away from you that quickly with no warning and they're simply going, walking, there's no way to prepare for it. So, I know on behalf on Council, our prayers and thoughts are with our staff person and hoping that she can stand this test of time and maturity.

This evening I have the pleasure of doing something that many mayors before me have done and that is the annual 'How are we doing?' What's up in Cleveland Heights? It is one of my favorite topics to talk about – Cleveland Heights. When I'm downstate representing Cleveland Heights as its Mayor, I get a big kick out of talking about who we are , what we do and what makes us special. You have to have a sense of humor and a sense of activism to be part of Cleveland Heights. Last year, when I first started as Mayor, before the summer was over, we had the naked Trump statue and it was a weekend I got to represent Cleveland Heights and I tried to sell the naked Trump to other mayors as we kibitzed at the Mayors' Alliance. For some reason, most of them didn't want to buy him because they were Democrats and the other half didn't want (the other smaller portion) didn't want to buy him because they didn't want him naked, but there's always a sense of humor and a sense of richness about who we are and what we do in Cleveland Heights. We have everything and many more people who are committed to do the range of tasks that we have. It's not all about Council and our elected officials. It's really the reality is the staff who range from our City Manager to the guys who sweep the streets in the middle of the night to make sure that our community looks clean. But we are who we are most of all because of our citizens. We truly believe, as I said a few seconds ago, in that activism and involvement.

One of the things that we were actively involved in last year was a Master Plan initiative. We brought people from all sides of town together and the committee that we put together to provide support to staff and opinions to staff and the folks that came in from the County Planning Commission to help create a Master Plan for us were phenomenal. The folks who worked on this Master Plan spent lots of extra time in the community. One of those residents is here tonight. Lou, thank you for the time you spent doing that Master Plan. He did things he never even thought about doing he told me in passing one evening. He walked neighborhoods he hadn't walked since he was a kid in high school here in Cleveland Heights. And so those are the kinds of these Planning activities are refreshers for what we do and who we are and how we can make our community better, not just stay where it's at.

One of the new initiatives this year was an Economic Development Advisory Committee. I'm personally committed to transparency and the future as a former Planning Director, and so, we're committed, not as a Council, just not to sit here on our alternate Monday, but to listen and to engage residents on a regular basis, so that new ideas are kept alive and so that we make sure that staff has options and opportunities to take a look at. And so we intend to involve our citizens in a variety of topics from the economic development and the larger Master Plan topic.

We are always looking to engage people and help them provide us with the best ideas for our community, but there are the things that we do day to day that are part of our standard business activity – public safety. I'm delighted that we have Chief Mecklenburg and Chief Freeman to lead our safety services. Chief Mecklenburg came up through the ranks. She's like me. She's served here off and on in a variety of roles until she finally got to the leadership role. Under her leadership and working in conjunction with past chiefs, our officers are all wearing body cameras. We were one of the first communities to have computers in our vehicles and we continue to have cutting-edge service in our Police work. We move on to the Fire Department. All of our firefighters are also EMTs. That means they're not just on the back of an engine being capable of putting a fire out, but they're also capable of getting off of that and moving away from that hose and serving in the most important way and that is to save a life. In the last year, we had two major tragedies. One of those was the loss of Sunny Patel which was a combination activity between Fire and Police. Both teams interacted in sync and tried their hardest to save the young man, but they couldn't, but their work was so important to the family in how professionally they served that family that we were recognized by financial contribution to the City of Cleveland Heights to continue training with our officers and firefighters/EMTs. In addition, recently University Hospitals recognized us for our quick response in saving the life of one of our crew members on our dispatch teams and so, the folks in Fire and Police, brave men and women who work hard for us all the time, we never know when we're going to need them or how we're going to need them and they race in an opposite direction from the rest of us to take care of the things that are most important to us – our lives and our health and our safety.

People who work behind the scenes on a regular basis, we never want to see them, we don't want to hear them, but we want them to get their work done and that's Public Works. They've got to pick up the trash, the ugly stuff in the city – when the trees fall over, when our roads need to be patched, things we don't want to see, we don't want to slow down for, but they're very important to us and they're one of the top right after Police and Fire. Public Works are something that people always ask about or they talk about potholes on Cedar, the potholes on Mayfield, making sure that the streets are better. In the last year, we have obtained through using other people's money, the ability to resurface Lee Road which was over \$3 million and this year, Cedar and Noble will both be done and that's over \$6 million on those two streets.

And so, what we've seen is \$10 million of other people's money coming into Cleveland Heights in addition to a little of our own and that is a big deal when a department can pull in that money from other sources.

One of the most important things is - in Cleveland Heights – is the quality of our housing stock. Our Housing Department works hard to protect the quality of our housing stock as we look at what we have, what we want to have and how we manage what we have. You heard a piece of legislation today that we are very much in support of that says to people who don't manage their properties carefully that we're watching you and if you don't invest in it and you don't pay your taxes, we will be focused on getting you to put... to reinvest in the property you own in our community. The largest piece of our property, the largest amount of income for the operations of this City, comes from the residential use of our land and housing.

Economic development led by Tim Boland on our team is very important. We've reenergized and recommitted ourselves to strong leadership in the commercial and residential redevelopment of our City. We're very concerned about Severance, Top of the Hill, the activities on Euclid Heights Boulevard, and all 11 of our major commercial districts. This is something that we must continue to invest in and move forward on. Our Planning and Development Department led by Richard Wong is responsible for keeping our history together and looking for the future and making sure that we do things in an organized manner. Our Zoning Code is probably one of the things that keeps us looking and feeling like a healthy and vibrant city because we manage that code and we help to manage what our properties look like and what the options for reuse are. The quality of our life is enriched by our Parks and Recreation Department led by Joe McRae. We are the home to the arts and we are because we continue to invest. Our biggest jewel is Cain Park, but not far behind it is our wonderful recreation center. We have options and opportunities at our recreation center and throughout this community. There are over 140 acres of park land so that each of our residents can cherish and enjoy and bring other people into the community to look at and love.

The story we tell about ourselves is often in the hands of our Community Relations Department. Our Deputy Assistant City Manager Susanna Niermann O'Neil keeps our story alive. She's continuously reaching out to people and sharing ideas about who and what we are and working on what our future statements will be about. We have a Facebook page. We have a website. We have a Twitter account and we use all of these to tell people how close we are to University Circle, how we are involved with the inner ring suburban communities and what we do to promote ourselves and our community.

Because we're a community of activists, we're also partners with groups like Reaching Heights, Home Repair Resource Center, Heights Arts, the Bicycle Coalition, Heights Community

Congress, the Girls and Boys Club and Future Heights to name a few because we believe that being engaged with members of our community is very important.

We're concerned about other parties as well. We're very concerned about what the federal government will or will not do to municipalities' budgets and sources of funding we receive in grants through and from them directly or through the state or other agencies. It's really important to talk about where we will get funding to handle the activities that we need. The things that we're most concerned about is the potential of the federal government to wipe out our Community Development Block Grant dollars. We have been an entitlement community directing the use of our funds ourselves and it would be sad to see those funds go. This past year alone we received \$1.4 million which we used in our community in our neighborhoods which had significant numbers of low and moderate-income families and we need those dollars because they help us stretch our own tax dollars even further.

Nothing can be done, as most of us know, without a solid budget, and financially we're in a much stronger position because one of the things that our City Manager definitely cares about is how we manage our money and what we do with it. She came to us with a strong background in that area and she consistently has worked to focus on making sure we manage our funds well. So, with our Finance team and our fiscally responsible focus on how we do what we do and focusing on how we work with our residents, we have a healthy financial statement this year. Our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report received recognition from the state because of how well we manager our budget.

In conclusion, I want to thank the team who supports the activities that Council formulates legislation for and policy ideas and makes us look really good all the time. My Council colleagues, Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahlil Seren, Michael Ungar, Melissa Yasinow and my Vice Mayor Jason Stein all work very hard at focusing on this community, what we need and how we can work on it. We are a community. We are a team and we have staff who range from our safety leadership to the folks who run everything from our IT like Jimmy Lambdin or the folks who are behind the scenes like Alex Mannarino with our Public Works. We need this entire team to make everything work well. We have a focus on how we do better in the future. We are looking at making short-term as well as long-term things accomplishable in this community and so, we want to reach out to you as a City Council and as a staff and continue to listen to the kinds of things you want us to move forward on. We have to adapt some of our thoughts. We have to change. We stay open to new ideas and as Mayor, I've heard from so many of you and there are so many wonderful people in this community, but importantly, our relationship with a variety of people continues to be important to us.

One of the strongest relationships we've developed over the past couple of years, but we've always had to work with them, is the school system. That is a partnership, since we share the same constituencies, that we must continue to interact with. We've paid attention to how the high school is working. We will be working with them on their future developments with the middle school and the elementary schools, so there's a lot going on in this community and a lot of hard work going on.

Please continue to have faith in us; please continue to talk to us. I want to say that, 'Thank you,' is the most important phrase that I have to say because people continue to believe in this community and they vote inside this community with the love and the continual thoughts to volunteer in the community. So, thank you for believing in all of our service to you. We are inspired by you. Don't be afraid to reach out to your City Council and your staff. Thank you. God bless America and God bless Cleveland Heights. This is the last – we have an emergency meeting that will be held on August 24; this is the end of our... I'm sorry, April 24. Did I say August? I'm moving fast for warmer weather. This meeting is adjourned. Our next meeting will be an emergency meeting, a short meeting, on April 24 and the next formal meeting in May will be May 1, Monday evening. Thank you and good night."

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

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Mitch Michalec, Acting Clerk of Council

/jkw