



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Monday, May 4, 2020 Minutes

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:05 – 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Stein presiding

Roll Call: Present: Dunbar, Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar

Staff present: Briley, Hanna, Niermann O’Neil, 14 staff attending online

CITY COUNCIL

7:55 – 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Stein presiding

Roll Call: Present: Dunbar, Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar
Excused: None

Staff present: Briley, Hanna, Lambdin, Niermann O’Neil, 14 staff attending online

Report of the City Manager

Notify Council that sealed bids were received on April 3rd, for project #20-01-2020 Street Resurfacing & ADA Curb Ramp Replacement Program and Chagrin Valley Paving, Inc. of Chagrin Falls, Ohio’s bid of \$693,750.21 has been found to be the lowest and best responsible bid.

Matter of Record

Tanisha Briley thanked staff for their work during this time and gave an overview of her report to Council which may be read in full at https://www.clevelandheights.com/DocumentCenter/View/6877/cc_packet_05042020?bidId=.

Council Member Ungar asked how the public was able to access information and have the ability to participate in public meetings such as ABR. Tanisha Briley responded we are following all of our protocols including notices, mailings and posting the links for those boards and commissions. Written comments are being accepted for any comments they would normally make in person. People are able to call in and view the meetings. To

connect to a meeting, go to www.clevelandheights.com and choose the meeting from the calendar and the link to the meeting is included there.

Council Member Ungar made a statement about the economic forecast nationally and locally, and inquired about the tax and revenue impact to the city. Tanisha Briley replied that staff is working on several economic forecast scenarios. There is a Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday which will include a revenue primer which could help people under the context of the coming forecasts. Most communities are using the Great Recession numbers as a best-case scenario, so we are following that guidance. There will also be decision packages to choose from that will require input from everyone from staff, unions, and Council.

Council Member Hart asked if WebEx permits the presenter to share screens and diagrams. Tanisha Briley responded that it does and she will use it for the Finance Committee and ABR has already done that.

Council Member Dunbar stated she had a public comment to be read in to the record. Tanisha Briley stated she had two as well.

Diana Woodbridge's comments were sent on behalf of GCC's Cleveland Heights Housing Team. In October of 2019, members met with the City Manager about prioritizing the Housing Department and reorganization to better address today's housing challenges. Novak was hired as a consultant and since then, more issues have arisen with COVID-19 and the financial impact it has had on people. Tanisha Briley sent an Email response that the assessment would take 12 to 14 weeks. The letter also asked for information about adding penalties to foreclosure bonds for those whom are not following ordinances.

Gail Larson submitted comments that work on the Housing Department had not resulted in a report yet despite deadlines. The assessment is expected at the end of May.

Fran Mench submitted comments to Council asking that money stop being spent to purchase meals prior to their meetings.

Report of the Clerk of Council

No report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATIONS COMMITTEE

Council Member Russell stated that in regards to the parks and pools, the city is abiding by the CDC guidelines with the governor to stay at home and everything will remain closed until May 30. The Recreation Committee, City Manager and Director of Parks and Recreation will meet to talk about summer programs. Input is being accepted and safety

remains the priority. We are communicating with surrounding cities about what they are doing for summer programs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 48-2020 (F). A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of street lighting.

Introduced by Council Member Hart, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

Roll Call: Ayes: Dunbar, Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar
 Nays: None

Legislation Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 49-2020 (F). A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of improvement of streets and parkways including grading, draining, curbing, paving, repaving, repairing, sweeping or cleaning thereof, removing snow therefrom, and planting, maintaining and removing shade trees thereon

Introduced by Council Member Hart, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

Roll Call: Ayes: Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Dunbar
 Nays: None

Legislation Passed

Council Member Hart asked Tanisha Briley for an update on brick streets. Tanisha Briley responded that a letter was sent by Public Works Director Collette Clinkscale to those residents explaining we hoped to convene a more formal meeting with them to discuss the plan in late Spring. That was proposed before COVID-19 and the city is looking at a 40% decline in funding for streets, so that is currently on hold.

Council Member Hart stated there was a question about the economic impact of COVID-19 on Top of the Hill. Tanisha Briley stated it will take several years to construct and the immediate impact was minimal as construction is considered an essential service. Although nobody can predict all the long-term economic impact of COVID-19, our consultant reminded us that the Cleveland area rental market is a result of the Great Recession. The target renter for this development are high income earners and most of those people in our area have not been impacted as much as some other industries. Most developments in the Greater Cleveland region that are in the same stage as Top of the Hill are moving forward.

Council Member Hart stated there was a comment about an auto repair shop that had a lot of cars and asked about the time frame for a violation. Tanisha Briley stated there were violations issued, the Planning Department regarding conditional use permit violation

standpoint, and from the Housing Department, which issued a violation and spoke with the owner who promised to make progress on the property over the weekend. Tanisha Briley stated she drove past the property and about half of the vehicles there before the weekend were gone by today.

Council Member Russell asked for an update on the auto body shop on Noble Road. Tanisha Briley said she would find out and provide an update.

Council Member Russell asked if we could start fining the owner of Severance for repairs on the parking lot and anything else in Severance in disrepair. Tanisha Briley stated we had issued violation notices, but they did not come with fines since it is criminal. Bill Hanna stated he thought that was correct and he would review that. Tanisha Briley stated we made a list of repairs and estimated costs over a year ago. As a general measure, violations of the Housing Code ultimately end up in Municipal Court. Council Member Russell requested they provide an update.

Council Member Russell stated she was waiting for the maps for Taylor and Noble. Tanisha Briley stated those maps had been refined, but were too large to email, so they will be included in the packet on Wednesday.

Council Member Hart stated she would like to see a civil option added to our Housing Code so that we can pursue them when needed, which would apply to the commercial buildings as well. Bill Hanna stated he would discuss it with Council Member Hart for clarification. Tanisha Briley stated Bill has been reviewing a host of support options in how we might do things for some of our Housing issues. Council Member Dunbar stated that should fall under the Public Health and Safety Committee. Mayor Stein stated that in the interim, he would keep the topic in Committee of the Whole to make it easy.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Dunbar stated she was a firm believer in building on your strengths as a community, specifically regarding some items on the consent agenda. As Council declares May Bike Month, Council Member Dunbar noted that Cleveland Heights was among the first cities to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community and is now at the Bronze Level. Our strength is being a walkable community, but we're a very bike-able community as well.

It is also National Preservation Month and one of our strengths is the legacy housing in the community which are virtually all individually architecturally designed. She spearheaded, along with a lot of help from the Historical Society and the city, the application for the Shaker Farm Historic District. She made a statement of support for that legislation.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 40-2020 (PD). A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit the Community Development Block Grant entitlement application for the year beginning January 1, 2020 and the Five-Year Plan for the years 2020-2024
Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Russell

Roll Call: Ayes: Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Dunbar, Hart
Nays: None

Legislation Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2020 (PD). A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit the Amended Community Development Block Grant entitlement application and plan for the year beginning January 1, 2019
Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Hart

Roll Call: Ayes: Seren, Stein, Ungar, Dunbar, Hart, Russell
Nays: None

Legislation Passed

Council Member Ungar thanked FutureHeights for putting together the well-being check-in program. He and other Council Members have volunteered.

Council Member Ungar requested information regarding NOPEC. He was told if you did not opt-in to the SCO rate by the beginning of the year, then you got defaulted into another variable rate program. He asked if there is anything we can do that does not require a volitional act on part of our residents to stay in a good program. Susanna Niermann O'Neil said she would contact NOPEC for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

No report

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Seren thanked everyone who was watching Council's live stream and those who will watch on cable or YouTube at a later date. An Administrative Services Committee meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13. He will discuss three pieces of legislation: the non-consensual release of intimate images, the voice vote and recusal legislation, and the Executive Session legislation. There will also be discussion about the transition to the Mayor-Council form of government and laying out the groundwork of how to get from here to there in the next year and a half.

Council Member Dunbar asked if openings on boards and committees would be an agenda item. Council Member Seren stated that will be a topic of a future meeting.

Council Member Russell asked for a list of what committees and boards needed people so Council could help recruit for vacancies. Council Member Seren agreed to that. Tanisha Briley stated she would need to know what staff needed to attend the committee meeting. She requested that the amendments to the Wage and Salary Ordinance be considered as an agenda item.

Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Hart

Roll Call: Ayes: Ungar, Stein, Seren, Russell, Hart, Dunbar
Nays: None

Motion Passed

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2020 (PD). A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to an agreement with Cuyahoga County to extend the term for funding through the HOME Program for the City’s homeowner rehabilitation loan programs through April 30, 2021

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2020 (PD). A Resolution affirming the City of Cleveland Heights’ ‘Citizens Participation Plan for Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) Activities’

ORDINANCE NO. 44-2020 (PD). An Ordinance adopting procedures for the transfer of certain City-owned real property, received through the City of Cleveland Heights Land Reutilization Program, to FutureHeights, Inc.; declaring the property no longer needed for a public purpose

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2020 (CRR). A Resolution proclaiming May 2020 to be Bike Month in the City of Cleveland Heights

RESOLUTION NO. 46-2020 (PD). A Resolution proclaiming May 2020 to be National Preservation Month

RESOLUTION NO. 47-2020 (PD). A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Home Repair Resource Center, a non-profit corporation, for the use of HOME Funds to administer its down payment assistance loan program; providing compensation therefor

Motion to adopt by Council Member Dunbar, Seconded by Council Member Hart

Council Member Russell stated she had a comment regarding Ordinance No. 44-2020. There was discussion regarding whether a Council Member can comment on items listed within the consent agenda. Bill Hanna clarified that if a Council Member wants to discuss an item, it can be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda can be voted on

with the exception of that item and the removed item is voted on separately just as any other free-standing legislation not included in the consent agenda. Another option is to vote as you will, then make your comments after the consent agenda has been voted on.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hart, Russell, Seren, Stein, Ungar, Dunbar
Nays: None

Legislation Passed

Mayor Stein recognized Council Member Russell. Council Member Russell stated she was in a tough debate about voting for the legislation regarding 3158 Berkshire since she sees a lot of rebuilding and rehab on one side of Cleveland Heights, and not on Taylor and Noble. She spoke with the Mayor and City Manager and there are still six projects for FutureHeights. There will be three for Noble and three for Taylor. She made a statement advocating for storefront renovation on Noble Road. She commended FutureHeights for being able to take those remaining projects and do them in the Taylor and Noble area.

Council Member Hart stated she wanted more attention in that area and thanked the Mayor.

Mayor's Report

No report.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Jason S. Stein, Mayor

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, Acting Clerk of Council
/jkc