



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Monday, January 4, 2021 Minutes

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6:36 – 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Stein presiding

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

Staff present: Boland, Butler, Clinkscale, Freeman, Hanna, Himmeltein, Lambdin, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O’Neil, Trupo

Topics discussed: Legislative overview

CITY COUNCIL

7:36 – 8:18 p.m.

Mayor Stein presiding

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

Staff present: Boland, Butler, Clinkscale, Hanna, Himmeltein, Lambdin, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O’Neil, Smith, Trupo

Minutes from the City Council meeting held Monday, December 7, 2020, were approved with submitted edits.

Personal communications received from citizens (via electronic mail)

Amy Himmeltein read a comment from Katelen Korty requesting the City lift the 3:00-6:00 a.m. street parking restriction for one side of the road, at least for the West half of Yorkshire Rd, approaching the Lee/Yorkshire intersection.

Amy Himmeltein read a comment from Diane Hallum requesting more funds and development north of Mayfield, in the Noble neighborhood.

Amy Himmeltein read a comment from Jane Harris regarding snow plowing on Severn Road and signage for parking bans during snowstorms.

Council President's Report

Council Member Hart made a motion to change Susanna Niermann O'Neil's title from Acting City Manager to City Manager which was seconded by Council Member Russell. Council President Stein said that all of Council approved with glowing reviews and individual comments can be heard in the audio recording of the Committee of the Whole.

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

Motion Passed

Report of the City Manager

Susanna Niermann O'Neil thanked Council for their confidence in her.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated that 2021 is a big year for the City with change of government. She and staff are committed to a smooth transition. In mid-February, a transition book will outline the activity in every department and division in the City so anyone thinking about running for the Mayor's office will be able to look at that book and understand the government structure, amount of staff, budgets, goals, and commitments. We are nearing the fifth year of the Master Plan and departments will update their progress with those goals too.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil thanked staff for their work in December for selling the All Are Welcome materials at Zagara's. There is tremendous support from residents.

Cleveland Heights will be 100 years old in August and, if COVID is gone, a celebration including a time capsule event at the Community Center.

Council will have an Annual Report from each of the departments by the end of January. Previously, we've only done that for Police and Fire, but this year each department will do one.

Report of the Chief of Police

Chief Mecklenburg stated that on December 19, there was an aggravated robbery reported on Parkhill. A resident was moving cars in his driveway when a red vehicle pulled up and four men exited the vehicle; one with a handgun. They demanded the keys and two of them drove away in the victim's car. There are no suspects at this time.

On December 19, officers reported to three shots fired at a house on Woodview. None of the residents were injured and there are no suspects at this time.

On December 26, there was a robbery at the USBank at Zagara's on Lee Road. A suspect entered the store, gave the teller a note that said he had a gun and to give him money. The teller handed him approximately \$900 and he left the store. There were no weapons seen at that time. Since then, there has been a second bank robbery in a neighboring

community and the pictures match our suspect. We are working with other agencies including the FBI to identify the suspect.

On December 28, a 30-year old man was shot three times inside his residence on Berkeley. He was taken to the hospital. Two people are in custody and one male has been charged with felonious assault. Police are working to identify the second suspect based on some leads. The victim is in very critical condition. All of the people knew each other.

On December 28, a male was found in a group home driveway on Cedar and found by a delivery driver. It appears to be an accident that he fell through a second story window. There are no signs of foul play.

On December 28, there was an accident involving a bicyclist at Lee and Scarborough. The investigation revealed that a 71-year old male Cleveland Heights resident was riding south on Lee Road. An approaching vehicle saw him, slowed down and began to move over to pass him safely. As the vehicle approached, the man began to wobble on the bike and swerved into the oncoming vehicle. The man fell and hit his head on the ground without a helmet, and sadly succumbed to his injuries.

On January 1, there was an accident on Euclid Heights Boulevard. Preliminary investigation shows that a man leaving a New Year's party, a 40-year old Cleveland man named Timothy Brown suffered a crushing injury after being struck by a motor vehicle. Despite the best efforts of both a nurse and a physician who were riding in the area and both stopped to perform CPR and give him aid, he did not survive his injuries. The driver of the vehicle was arrested on the scene for OMVI and is currently out on bond. This investigation is ongoing.

Regarding the murder of Malik Moore on September 12, one suspect, Quincy Hubbard, is in custody. He was located and apprehended on December 11, charged with aggravated murder and is currently being held on a \$500,000 cash surety bond. Police have a warrant for the second suspect.

The suspect has been identified in the shooting on Crest on November 21. Police are looking for him and a warrant has been issued for felonious assault.

The suspect from the Cedar Hill Sunoco carjacking on October 16 was identified as Tyland Thomas. He was shot and killed in Cleveland before Cleveland Heights Police located him. The second suspect has not been identified, so the case remains open and under investigation.

A new investigative lead has been developed in the shooting that occurred on Warrensville Center on November 28. It is believed that it started as a road rage incident on Noble. There is a man who was arrested who is possibly a suspect in this incident. His gun matches the evidence.

Chief Mecklenburg stated that she is continuing to work with Cleveland State's Diversity Institute. About half of the officers have completed training regarding cultural competency and implicit bias training. Training has been paused due to COVID-19

concerns. There will be additional safeguards in place when training resumes soon. Police will be meeting with Dr. Dunn to discuss policies that were reviewed. Then, we can proceed with townhall meetings to talk to residents about this as well.

Council Vice President Seren ask for clarification on the training, that it is in person. Chief Mecklenburg stated they are in person because participants are more active that way, but safety concerns are most important. Council Vice President Seren asked if there were materials that could be provided to see what it entails. Chief Mecklenburg stated she had not taken the training yet, but she'll look into that.

Report of the Clerk of Council

No report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Russell wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated Council is working diligently to get the task force running as quickly as possible. She thanked all 76 applicants.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE NO. 1-2021 (F). An ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 127-2020 (F), relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021

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

Legislation Passed

Council Member Hart stated that Cheryl Stephens was elected today as Vice President of the County Council.

There will be a Mayoral Transition Forum including representatives from East Providence, Rhode Island who recently went through the same governmental transition. It will be on January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Dunbar said the death of bicyclist Terry Ryan, a resident of Cleveland Heights, is a great tragedy. She expressed her condolences to the family. The Heights Bicycle Coalition has come up with recommendations of roads to go on depending on your bicycling skills which is available on their website. She will further discuss routes at the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Council Member Dunbar thanked the people involved in the community including non-profits and City committees.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Ungar stated there's a lot of great stuff on the Council agenda for 2021.

Some of the Planning and Development activities are paused until the new Planning Director begins. We will continue with some single-subject meetings as Committee of the Whole or a separate stand-alone basis. The first discussion will be about the Landmark Commission.

Council Member Ungar stated he has faith in staff's transition planning. He stated that the Law Director reached out to the previous Law Director and his firm, Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, LLC, to assist in the transition.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Ungar thanked the Chief for the detailed report. Gun violence is an important topic in the community and these reports need to be heard by Council. He will hold a follow-up meeting about the gun-related violence in our City. He stated he is considering a, "what if," document with an example of, "What if I hear shots?" or "How do I protect myself and my kids if I hear shots?"

Council Member Dunbar asked what the City's role is in the COVID vaccinations. Susanna stated she attended a meeting of Mayors in the surrounding area. No one had received any information regarding vaccinations for residents. The only communication has been for the paramedics and police to receive the vaccination. We would offer our community center as a place for inoculation, but we haven't gotten any feedback. Once we know, we'll promote it.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Vice President Seren wished everyone a Happy New Year. It will be an exciting year for Cleveland Heights. He read a statement about Ohio Senate Bill 27. Instead of focusing on important bills in front of them, the legislature considered a bill requiring physicians to bury or cremate the remains from an abortion procedure. He stated this is an additional, unnecessary burden on patients as well as an emotional assault on people that want an abortion. He proposed that if it passes, Cleveland Heights investigate ways to support Cleveland Heights residents who need or want an abortion to defray these additional costs. Council Vice President Seren stated health care is a human right.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Jason S. Stein, Mayor

Amy Himmlein, Clerk of Council

/jkc