



# CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

**Monday, February 1, 2021 Minutes**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

6:37 – 7:54 p.m.

Vice Council President Seren presiding

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

Staff present: Anderson, Boland, Butler, Clinkscale, Hanna, Himmelein, Knittel, Lambdin, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O’Neil, Trupo, Zamft

Topics discussed: Legislative overview, Charter Amendment for Council Vacancy, Summary/Overview of Meadowbrook/Lee

**CITY COUNCIL**

7:58 – 8:47 p.m.

Council President Stein presiding

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

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

**Personal communications received from citizens (via electronic mail)**

Amy Himmelein read a comment from T. Nadas offering to accept the Council vacancy to assist in projects.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Trina N. about shots fired every day from the same house on Runnymede.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Cindy Carol Pankhurst regarding two parcels in the Hebrew Academy campus that were sold to Duck Creek Energy, an oil and gas exploration company based in Brecksville. There is concern for fracking, particularly with regard to its proximity to the watershed.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Paul Volpe asking if there will be opportunity for public comment on the RFPs posted online.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Peggy Spaith asked if residents in need of unpaid bills and rent are being helped.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Linda Stravinsky asking Council to fill the vacancy with one of the finalists now.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Rosa Kovacevich regarding increased policing and surveillance. She asked that a public Q&A be held and publicized. She addressed concerns about privacy regarding surveillance and maintaining the safety of those in domestic violence situations.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Len Friedsen regarding Democracy Day and asking for the city's virtual meeting platform to be reevaluated.

Amy Himmelein read a comment from Krista Hawthorne, Executive Director of Reaching Heights. Most students will return to hybrid learning on February 16. [Updated information may be found at <https://www.chuh.org/CH-UHSchoolsReopeningInformation.aspx>]

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

Request permission to bid project #21-04 for the purchase of Five (5) – 75 cubic yard Aluminum Refuse Ejector Trailers

### **Matter of Record**

**Refer to:** Municipal Services Committee

Motion by Council Member Dunbar, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

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

### **Motion Passed**

Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated that the police building on Noble Road near Nela Park would not be torn down, but will be used for training.

She stated that the Nuisance Abatement Board deals mostly with housing issues when the property is not kept up.

If residents see anything they want to report, they can use the anonymous tip line.

### **Report of the Chief of Police**

On January 31, there were reports of shots fired in the Keystone area. When police arrived, a party was dispersing and found that some attendees fired shots into the air. The Chief is looking into the nuisance abatement process for the residence based on previous activities.

Another shots fired call was made for the area of Mayfield and Compton. Police found three males running from the scene of 1560 Rydalmount. They said they were in a vehicle on Desota Avenue when they saw another vehicle and thought the driver was someone that previously robbed him, so they followed the vehicle. One shot was fired and nobody was hit. One of them is facing charges for a stolen rifle, tampering with evidence and additional charges regarding discharging the weapon.

The Chief reached out and got information from Public Safety Service regarding cameras and police being able to access cameras in certain neighborhoods.

Council Member Russell asked the Chief if she had information about the shots fired in the Quilliams and Runnymede area. The Chief stated she looked up both of the dates mentioned and no calls were received. She stated extra officers were stationed at Noble Rd. and surrounding streets over the weekend.

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

No report.

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Council Member Dunbar stated the Heights Bicycle Coalition will put up a ghost bike near the intersection of Lee and Scarborough on January 31 in memory of Terrance Ryan. There is an article in the Heights Observer. Council Member Russell gave her condolences to the family.

**ORDINANCE NO. 4-2021 (MS).** An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2021 Energized Community Grant(s) Funds; and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Council Member Dunbar, Seconded by Council Member Russell

Council Vice President Seren asked if was not passed on emergency today, would we lose the funds? Amy Himmelein responded that we have until June, but if it is passed on emergency, we can utilize the money now.

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

**Legislation Passed**

Council Member Dunbar stated that CVS handed out all of their vaccines, but she had luck at Walgreen's in surrounding communities.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Council Member Ungar stated there will be a meeting regarding the Cedar-Meadowbrook-Lee Development RFPs. Council Member Ungar asked how residents should provide input and questions. Susanna Niermann O'Neil stated there will be a link to enter questions and input on the same page that the PowerPoint is posted. There will be an opportunity after each presentation for Council Members to ask questions and give feedback.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Council Member Ungar stated that all of Council, staff and Police are taking the shootings seriously. He is interested in further discussing Ring doorbells.

Council Member Ungar stated he is working on Pay to Stay legislation. In short, a landlord can't proceed with eviction for non-payment of rent if the tenant presents the full rent due plus the legal fees at the time of the hearing. One in seven evictions leads to homelessness and more involve people doubling or tripling in a residence which leads to COVID-19 exposure possibilities. The Law Department has been asked to draft legislation.

Council Member Ungar moved to add Resolution No. 8-2021 to the agenda which was seconded by Council Member Dunbar.

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

**Motion Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8-2021 (PSH).** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 120-2020 to modify and clarify the structure, composition, appointment process, and powers of the Racial Justice Task Force; and declaring an emergency.

Introduced by Council Member Ungar, Seconded by Council Member Dunbar

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

**Legislation Passed**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Council Vice President Seren stated several people were working with Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless state legislation and he'd been in contact with them as well. He suggested as it is considered to pass this policy, that legislation be included to protect source of income from discrimination. He stated taking kids in and out of districts can have a negative effect on their abilities to succeed in school. Having stable housing is beneficial to families and communities.

Council Vice President Seren stated he is holding Zoom office hours every Sunday, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Residents can Email him at [kseren@clvhts.com](mailto:kseren@clvhts.com) for the link to participate. At the last one, the wells and mineral rights on Hebrew Academy Campus were a point of conversation and found that these were drilled while it was a golf course. There is some question about whether they're capped properly and if there will be future use. He requested any information regarding permits.

A resident asked about Oakwood Drive no trespassing signs. He asked if this is a private road.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-2021 (CRR).** A Resolution proclaiming February 2021 to be *American Heart Month*; and declaring an emergency.

Introduced by Council Member Russell, Seconded by Council Vice President Seren

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

**Legislation Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-2021 (CRR).** A Resolution recognizing February 2021 as *National African American History Month*; and declaring an emergency.

Introduced by Council Member Russell, Seconded by Council Member Ungar

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

**Legislation Passed**

Council Member Russell announced that the Community Relations Advisory Board will meet on February 23 at 6:30.

Council Member Russell stated they received a notice from a resident asking for a pool of donated money that could be used to help those in need.

Two residents called looking for a place to stay in Cleveland Heights. After taking custody of her grandchildren, she is seeking a three bedroom rental.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 7-2021 (F)**. An ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 127-2020 (F) and subsequent amending ordinances, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Introduced by Council Member Dunbar, Seconded by Council Member Russell

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

### **Legislation Passed**

Council Member Dunbar stated that the city will be upgrading refuse and recycling.

The Transportation Advisory Committee met last week and is drafting a statement of purpose. In 2018, the City was recognized for Complete and Green Streets. Applications are being accepted for that committee.

## **Council President's Report**

No report.

## **NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason Stein, Council President

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Amy Himmelein, Clerk of Council  
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