

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
NOVEMBER 3, 2008

Mayor Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Adele H. Zucker  
Ms. Frankie B. Goldberg  
Mr. Steven D. Bullock  
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy  
Mr. Peter R. Bernardo  
Mr. Frank Consolo  
Mr. Steven Sims

Also Present: Clerk of Council Nancy E. English  
Law Director Kenneth J. Fisher  
Finance Director Arman R. Ochoa  
Chief of Police Gary Stehlik  
Fire Chief John Pitchler  
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson  
Building Commissioner David Menn  
Service Director Christopher Vild  
City Engineer Joseph R. Ciuni

A moment of silence was held in memory of the late Vera Sherwin, who passed away recently. Mrs. Sherwin was the University Heights Citizen of the Year in 1982.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 20, 2008

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of October 20, 2008.

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2008. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

Agenda Items:

**A. Motion to authorize the purchase of tactical vests for the SWAT Team**

Chief of Police Gary Stehlik requested that Council authorize the purchase of six (6) tactical vests for the SWAT Team from D & G Uniforms in the amount of \$9,450.00. He noted that the City participates in the U. S. Department of Justice's bulletproof vest program and although the funds would be expended from the General Fund, the City will be reimbursed for 50% of the costs from the Department of Justice. Chief Stehlik stated that the Dept. of Justice has approved the purchase and the City has a balance of \$5,300 in the federal reimbursement account. He added that the remainder of the funds will be used for ongoing replacement of personal vests for the patrolman.

Councilman Bullock stated that the Safety Committee considered the purchase at its meeting on October 27, 2008 and recommended the purchase.

**MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. BERNARDO to authorize the purchase of six (6) tactical vests from D & G Uniforms in the amount of \$9,450.00. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**B. Motion to authorize the purchase of tactical rifles and shotgun lights for the Police Department**

Chief Stehlik requested that Council authorize the purchase of ten (10) shotgun lights in the amount of \$2,650.00 and three (3) tactical rifles in the amount of \$3,324.00 from Cherokee Arms for a total expenditure of \$5,974.00. The expenditure will be made from the Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Councilman Bullock stated that the Safety Committee also considered this purchase at its meeting on October 27, 2008 and recommended the purchase.

**MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MS. GOLDBERG to authorize the purchase of ten (10) shotgun lights and three (3) tactical rifles from Cherokee Arms in a total amount of \$5,974.00. On roll call all, voted "aye."**

**C. Resolution No. 2008-53 To enter into a contact with NORMA Self-Insurance Pool, Inc. for the purpose of becoming a member (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Resolution No. 2008-53, which was placed on first reading on September 15, 2008, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with the NORMA Self-Insurance Pool, Inc. for the purpose of becoming a member. Finance Director Arman Ochoa reported that a majority of the NORMA member cities have passed legislation accepting the City of University Heights as a member.

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. MURPHY to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2008-53. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**D. Ordinance No. 2008-62 To submit the City's application for funding of the Bushnell Road Resurfacing and Enhancement Project under the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program**

Ordinance No. 2008-62 authorizes the submission of the City's application to the Cuyahoga County Community Development Department for funding of the Bushnell Road Resurfacing and Enhancement Project for fiscal year 2009. City Engineer Joseph R. Ciuni stated that the required public hearing was held on October 15, 2008. The project consists of resurfacing Bushnell Road from Warrensville Center Road to Wrenford Road after the waterline is replaced next spring. Mr. Ciuni noted that the total cost of the project will be approximately \$150,000 and the City will apply for \$100,000. The application is due on November 14, 2008.

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2008-62 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted "aye." On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**E. Motion to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation and real estate matters**

An executive session was not required.

Directors' Reports:

**Service Director** Christopher Vild opened the floor to questions regarding the road salt situation. Councilman Sims suggested that the City receive written confirmation of the verbal agreement with the City of Cleveland Heights for the purchase of road salt. Mr. Vild stated that he contacted Cleveland Heights about a written commitment, but they declined to put anything in writing nor will they accept anything in writing regarding the purchase of salt. However, he added that the City of Cleveland Heights has stated they will do their utmost to supply University Heights with 2000 to 3,000 tons of salt this winter season.

Mr. Fisher concurred that Cleveland Heights will not put in writing its verbal agreement. He stated that there has been internal conversation of drafting an ordinance to authorize the expenditure of \$118,500 for 3,000 tons of salt at \$39.50 per ton. However, the funds have already been appropriated and the purchase cannot be made at this time because the salt storage facility is currently filled to capacity.

Mr. Vild stated that he continues to look for potential alternate sources for salt. But, presently the cost of salt per ton without a contract is anywhere from \$110 and up with minimum orders of 5,000 to 10,000 tons. Mr. Vild stated that he will advise Council if he finds an alternative source.

Mr. Fisher advised that he is satisfied that the competitive bid requirement has been met and that the City can purchase salt from Cleveland Heights if the need arises.

Councilman Murphy inquired as to what is stopping the City from instituting the "Sensible Salting" Policy as created by the Northern Ohio Service Directors Association. Mr. Vild stated that the policy will be reviewed by the Service & Utilities Committee of Council before it is brought to the entire Council. Vice Mayor Zucker stated that she will contact the committee members with dates for a meeting.

Mayor Rothschild mentioned that this situation makes a good case for the City's own salt bin.

Committee Reports:

**Building Committee** Chairman Peter R. Bernardo reported that he will schedule a committee meeting within the next few weeks.

**Finance Committee** Chairman Steven Sims announced that a Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. He noted that a projection and financial update will be presented to the Council prior to the meeting.

**Recreation Committee** Chairman Frankie Goldberg reported that a Recreation Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. She noted that summer recreation reports will be presented prior to the meeting.

Ms. Goldberg inquired as to the status of the University Parkway project, the Silsby Road project and the Groveland Road project. With regard to the work on Groveland Road, Ms. Goldberg requested that the road be closed off or that parking be restricted on the street until after the work is completed. Mr. Ciuni stated that the large patch repair on Groveland Rd. by Wrenford Rd. has been completed. Mr. Vild noted that the waterline repair work in the middle of the block should be completed by the end of the week, but he noted that it would be difficult to block the street off because of the school at the end of the block. Ms. Goldberg recommended that parking not be allowed on one side of the street.

With regard to the University Parkway project, Mr. Ciuni stated that five (5) more homes need to be hooked up, which is anticipated to be completed by Wednesday, November 5, 2008. After which, the trench will be cemented. When the temporary pipes and hoses are removed, the street will be patched. Mr. Ciuni noted that the contractor has exceeded the contract deadline of October 14, 2008 and is experiencing liquidated damages at \$300 per day until the work is complete. The project is expected to be finished by the end of the week.

With regard to the Silsby Road project, Mr. Ciuni noted that the water main is installed, the line was satisfactorily air tested and chlorination will be started tomorrow. After which, the Cleveland Water Department will take samples and three (3) consecutive samples must pass for safe drinking water. Then the houses will be hooked up.

Councilman Bernardo inquired into the status of the repairs at University Square. Mr. Ciuni replied that the most critical repairs have been completed and now the next phase of repairs are underway and will continue through the end of the year.

Fire Chief Pitchler reported that the CERT Team will hold a training session in conjunction with the flu shot inoculations on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at Wiley Middle School. Councilman Bernardo stated that this will be a collaborative effort with the County Health Department, the American Red Cross, the Fire Department, the Community Coordinator and the CERT Team.

Councilman Bullock asked for an update on CityWatch. Chief Pitchler reported that the joint fire dispatchers will be trained on the system. He noted that a new router was installed on the system so it can now be accessed from a remote location through the internet. Chief Pitchler noted that the system has the capability of notifying the entire city with 20 minutes. He added that 90% of the use will be for non-emergency matters, such as hydrant flushing, meeting notification, etc. Finance Director Arman Ochoa reported that residents may now sign up on the City's website to include their cell phone numbers and email addresses on the system.

**Safety Committee** Chairman Steven D. Bullock reported that the two agenda items from the October 27, 2008 committee meeting were presented and approved at this meeting. He noted that the Fire Chief gave an update of both CityWatch and the CERT Team. Councilman Bullock also noted that several items for both Fire and Police were placed on hold for follow-up with the Finance Committee. He stated that minutes of the Safety Committee meeting will be distributed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild

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Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council