

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
JANUARY 19, 2010

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

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Frankie B. Goldberg
Mr. Steven D. Bullock
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy
Mr. Frank Consolo
Mr. Steven Sims
Mr. Phillip Ertel
Mrs. Susan D. Pardee

Also Present: Clerk of Council Nancy E. English
Acting Law Director Dennis Nevar
Chief of Police Gary Stehlik
Fire Chief John Pitchler
Service Director Christopher Vild
Building Commissioner David Menn
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson
Service Director Christopher Vild

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 4, 2010

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of January 4, 2010.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 4, 2010. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Minutes of the special meeting held on January 11, 2010

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of January 11, 2010.

MOTION BY MS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the minutes of the special meeting held January 11, 2010. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Martin Luther King Day Commemoration

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2010, the Council members read quotations, phrases and sentences in the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a pioneer of the civil rights movement. Following the readings, a moment of silent reflection was held.

Mayor Infeld introduced Mr. Leon Bibb, anchor of Live on 5 for WEWS-TV in Cleveland, who was invited to speak by Councilman Steven Sims. Mr. Bibb shared his memories of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. starting with the black and white television coverage in the 1960's. Then he read original poetry illustrating how the church was used to unite the people during the civil rights movement. He stated that “civil rights was steeped in religion.”

Mr. Bibb shared the story of his only face-to-face encounter with Dr. King, when he was a 19 year old college intern working for the Call and Post Newspaper. His assignment was to photograph Dr. King when he was speaking in Cleveland. He captured the photograph, which ran on the front page of the paper. He mentioned that he had the opportunity to meet Dr. King’s widow, Coretta Scott King, and interviewed his son, Martin Luther King III. He also talked about his interview with James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. King.

Mr. Bibb stated that Dr. King was the “conscience of America” and he fought for freedom for everyone of every race – pointing out the he would not be in the career he is today had it not been for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Bibb suggested that everyone keep the spirit of Dr. King alive by changing the life of one person because as we change the life of one person, we change the world.

Comments from the Audience

Sarah Wilder, 3706 Meadowbrook Blvd., proposed that the City organize a campaign to assist with the Haitian relief effort by implementing a Volunteer Haitian Relief Support Initiative.

She suggested that Councilman Bullock provide advice on how to proceed with the efforts since he has many years of leadership experience with the American Red Cross. Mr. Bullock stated that managing the logistical aspect of delivering the overwhelmingly large quantity of donations is the greatest challenge in disaster relief. Therefore, Councilman Bullock advised that the best way to respond at this time would be to donate money. He noted that donations can be made to the American Red Cross by texting the word "Haiti" to 90999 and \$10 will be charged to the cell phone bill. Mr. Bullock recommended that Dr. Wilder be appointed to chair the relief initiative and recruit other volunteers to be trained to help provide the services that are needed now and in the future.

Mayor Infeld also noted that the William J. Clinton Foundation is accepting \$10 donations by texting word "Haiti" to 20222. She suggested that people check with their favorite charity to determine if the same method of making donations can be used with that organization. Mayor Infeld recommended that the CERT Team members be contacted to find out if anyone would like to help coordinate relief efforts once it is determined that donated food and clothes are needed.

Bert Siebert, 2645 Whiton Rd., expressed his opinion that a Safety Director position is not needed in a city the size of University Heights. He stated that Council should be looking at ways to save money and suggested that the Safety Director position be eliminated, the Service Department stop operating the sidewalk bombardiers, and the number of members on City Council be reduced.

Reports and Communications from the Mayor and the taking of action:

Mayor Infeld announced that residents can find out about upcoming events in Cuyahoga County at www.cuyahogacountyevents.com.

Mayor Infeld also announced that a free H1N1 vaccination clinic will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

Mayor Infeld reported that at the last meeting she announced an upcoming change in the Building Department. However, Building Commissioner David Menn has decided to remain in University Heights.

Agenda Items:

A. Resolution No. 2010-02 Commending Sarah M. Wilder, Ph.D., for being recognized as an Outstanding Senior Volunteer by Medical Mutual of Ohio

Mayor Infeld read Resolution No. 2010-02 and presented the resolution to Dr. Sarah M. Wilder. Dr. Wilder expressed her appreciation for the resolution honoring her for being the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Silver Award presented by the Medical Mutual of Ohio Senior Advisory Council. She also thanked former Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild and Community Coordinator Walter Stinson for nominating her for the award.

B. Appointment of Mayor as Safety Director and Oath of Office

MOTION BY MS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to appoint Mayor Susan K. Infeld as Safety Director. On roll call, all voted "aye," except Mr. Consolo, who voted "nay."

Vice Mayor Goldberg administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Infeld.

C. Presentation of the Exceptions Analysis by NEO|SO - David Akers and Ebie Holst

Mr. David Akers, president of the Sourcing Office (NEO|SO), formerly the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office, and Mrs. Elizabeth "Ebie" Holst were present to give the formal presentation of the Exceptions Analysis. Mr. Akers explained the delay in the final presentation of the study. He stated that the original intention was to make three presentations over a period of several weeks. The first presentation was made to the previous Mayor, and her comments were incorporated into the report. The second presentation was given in late July to the members of the working group, which included Mayor Rothschild, Councilman Bullock, Councilman Murphy, Chief of Police Gary Stehlik, Clerk of Council Nancy English and Community Coordinator Walter Stinson (Councilwoman Goldberg was an alternate, but did not see the presentation). During that meeting of the working group, it was decided to delay the third presentation to the Council until after the November election given the political climate at the time, the pending change in administration and the various charter amendments, including the possibility of a city administrator. Also at that meeting, the working

group decided to have the presentation made to Council at the council meeting on November 16, 2009. However, in October a request was made by members of Council for NEO|SO to make the presentation at a council meeting in October, but NEO|SO had already made other commitments and could not attend. Then a request was made to NEO|SO to wait until January after the new mayor had taken office to give the presentation.

Mr. Akers also explained that an advance copy of the Exceptions Analysis was not submitted because the intention as indicated in the scope of work was that the presentation would be the report. He noted that the work was completed in June and had there not been delays the advance copy would not have been necessary. However, a written summary of the findings was provided and Mrs. Holst attended the December 21, 2009 council meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Akers mentioned that the actual cost to perform the study was \$50,000, but he agreed to do the study for University Heights for \$25,000. The contract set forth the timing of payments based upon the work schedule, which was completed in June, with the exception of additional work requested by the City. Mr. Akers stated that if the contract had been established on a time and material basis instead of a fixed price, the cost would have been three times higher. He added that if the study had been completed by another firm, the cost would have been substantially higher.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Akers and Mrs. Holst presented the Exceptions Analysis through a PowerPoint presentation. (Note: The Exceptions Analysis as presented is attached to the permanent minutes of this meeting and is posted on the City's Website at www.universityheights.com.)

Councilman Bullock inquired as to what documents constitutes the report. Mr. Akers stated that the written version of the PowerPoint presentation is the Exceptions Analysis, which is a summary of NEO|SO's work with recommendations. He added that the following supporting documentation was also provided to the City: an Activities Audit, which list the functions employees perform on a continual basis; the list of Collaborations; and an enlarged map of the City's current collaborations, which is also included in the PowerPoint document.

Mrs. Holst provided copies of the following documents to the clerk: initial letter to the employees, initial interview questions, framing context, sample of survey of residents, survey of staff, survey results to employees, summary of scheduling decisions, a summary of findings, and copies of agendas.

Vice Mayor Goldberg inquired as to why NEO|SO made the recommendation to outsource aspects of fire and rescue. Mrs. Holst replied that it is an opportunity for major collaboration in order to upgrade equipment, but not to have the major financial expense. Vice Mayor Goldberg asked why the potential for collaboration with John Carroll University was not mentioned in the report. Mr. Akers responded that potential collaborations were not in the scope of the project, but he added that the City could determine possible participation with John Carroll University. Vice Mayor Goldberg inquired into NEO|SO's recommendation in terms of quantifying HR support. Mr. Akers replied that the City should determine what level of human resource support it wants to provide employees in a cost effective manner. Mr. Consolo questioned Mr. Akers' definition of HR support. He replied that he looks at HR support as a way to attract new employees, to retain employees, and to provide personal and professional development in order to maintain an environment of training and growth. He added that HR is also a risk management tool.

Councilwoman Pardee asked if the study and recommendations were based on best practices and experience. Mr. Akers replied "yes" and added that he and Mrs. Holst have experience in all areas except state and federal government. Mrs. Pardee stated that the document will be a useful tool and a way to start the conversation in order to make necessary decisions. She agreed that a resident survey would also be useful. Mrs. Pardee suggested that the report be discussed at the later date. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be scheduled and announced. Mr. Akers will be available for that meeting.

D. 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:

Fire Chief John Pitchler reported that the firefighters have cleared the snow away from all fire hydrants in the city.

Mayor Infeld noted that she received a thank you note for the services provided by paramedics Mike DiDomenico, Mike Ceraolo, and Matt Matlak.

Building Commissioner David Menn reported that his department's end of the year inspection report has been submitted for the Council's review. He will expound on the report at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Building Committee Chairman Frankie B. Goldberg reported that she will meet with the Building Commissioner this week and would like to schedule a Building Committee meeting for February 9, 2010.

Civic Information Committee Chairman Frank Consolo reported that the committee met on January 18, 2010. He noted that the City is seeking resident members for the Communication and Development Commission, which is being re-established, the Financial Advisory Committee, and the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mayor Infeld stated that an announcement will go out the residents soon. She also mentioned that a new committee, the Internet Advisory Committee, will be formed.

Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Susan D. Pardee reported that there are grants available through the Fund for Our Economic Future, Efficient GovNow. A total of \$330,000 will be divided among four (4) grantees. Mrs. Pardee stated that University Heights may have an opportunity to partner with another governmental agency for the grant. She noted that an abstract is due in February.

Mrs. Pardee reported that the Governmental Affairs Committee will explore grant opportunities through NOPEC's "Powering Our Communities" grants. The grant program is designed for communities to develop new projects to decrease utility costs. The grant funds can be used for energy conservation projects, renewable energy projects, energy education projects, economic development projects which creates jobs in the NOPEC communities, as well financial distress projects. Mrs. Pardee noted that the City would have a year to develop the grant application. Grant awards will vary starting at \$50,000.

A committee meeting will be scheduled in February to discuss the funding opportunities.

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

Mayor Susan K. Infeld

Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council