

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD December 8, 2014

This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michael C. Barth at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present and accounted for were Director of Law Pignatiello, Director of Finance Johnson, Councilman-at-Large Barth, Councilwoman-at-Large Lecznar, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 1 Councilman Bryda, Ward 2 Councilman Fraundorf, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, and Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst. Absentees were Mayor Dell'Aquila and Building Commissioner Moro.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 24, 2014, as printed.

Mr. Fraundorf stated:

“I have to tell you there was a lot of reading to do!”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 1** of December 8, 2014, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 2** of December 8, 2014, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Council President Barth stated:

“Councilman Trafis will be recusing himself from this vote due to a conflict regarding the Bentkowski litigation.”

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, yea;

Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis (recused)

6 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused)

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION

There were no Resolutions of Commendation.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Trafis stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, November 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Trafis said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 15, 2014.

Public Works

Public Works Committee Chairman Bryda stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 1, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Bryda said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, January 5, 2015.

Community Services

Community Services Committee Chairman Fraundorf stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 1, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Fraundorf stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, January 5, 2015.

Police and Fire

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, November 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Snitzky stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 15, 2014.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson Lecznar stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 15, 2014.

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Ernst stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 1, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Ernst stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, January 5, 2015.

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Barth stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 1, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Barth stated that the Finance Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 15, 2014.

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APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

There were no appointments or confirmations.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS

The Clerk of Council stated she would like to read into the record a letter received from **Amy Roberts** of Mason, Ohio, dated November 26, 2014, addressed to Police Chief Gary Durkin, as follows:

*“The reason I am writing you is because I wanted to share with you my experience with a member of the Seven Hills Ohio Police Department – **Lieutenant Michael Salloum**. Yesterday, I attended a hearing at the Ohio Statehouse for Senate Bill 324. This bill would eliminate the statute of limitations for the very serious crime of rape when DNA evidence is present. This is very personal to me because nearly 20 years ago, I was violently raped and sodomized by an intruder. He has never been found. Laws that ensure sexual assault victims receive justice are very important to me.*

Lieutenant Michael Salloum testified in support of the bill. In fact, even though this is a statewide issue, he was the only law enforcement member to testify from any precinct in Ohio. His testimony was powerful as he methodically detailed a crime of one rape victim who could not receive justice because the criminal was indicted after the statute of limitations was exceeded even though DNA evidence was available. By relating this heart-wrenching event, he made a compelling case from an officer’s perspective of the importance of acting quickly on this issue. It also showed that the Seven Hills Police Department is deeply committed to helping rape survivors receive justice.

Even after the testimony was over, Lieutenant Salloum stayed to talk with me, offer condolences for what I went through, and answer some questions I had regarding DNA testing of criminals. He was knowledgeable, compassionate, and humble. My father also attended and we were both so impressed with him. I felt compelled to share this with you because too often society only focuses on law enforcement when something negative happens.

Unfortunately, despite Lieutenant Salloum’s compelling testimony as well as emotional testimony from two other rape victims including myself, I did not get a good sense that the committee would pass SB324 this year. Although this bill is not controversial (case in point: there were 6 proponents for the bill and zero opponents), comments from two of the legislators led me to believe that it would not be passed. If it does not get passed this year, I plan to testify again next year and I hope to again see support from your police department.

Finally, I wanted to share with you that in my case – which happened in 1996 – my detective issued a John Doe warrant for the arrest of this man. This is what I call a ‘work around’, but it allows this man to be prosecuted regardless of when he is caught. John Doe warrants are relatively new – they indict him on his DNA profile rather than his name. This tool

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could be used on those cases in which the statute of limitations will soon be reached. Additionally, many precincts across Ohio and across the nation have untested rape kits, many of which have DNA evidence that could be uploaded to CODIS. Recently, Detroit tested 1600 of its over 11,000 untested rape kits and through this effort was able to identify 188 serial rapists. As we wait for legislation to be revised to address gaps that currently exist in the system, these are some things to look at that could increase the chance of providing rape victims justice.

Police Chief Durkin, thank you so much for ensuring a culture exists in your department that promotes finding justice for rape victims. And again, thank you to Lieutenant Salloum for taking the time to drive down to Columbus to speak out on this very serious crime. Sincerely.”

Council President Barth stated:

“I think we’re all very proud of Lieutenant Salloum. He does fabulous work here for Seven Hills. I think it’s important that this Council looks to take care of our Police Department and I plan to talk more about that in 2015.”

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 146-2014 – AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE CONSORTIUM BID OF GREAT LAKES PETROLEUM OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, TO BE THE BEST CONSORTIUM BID THEREFORE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAID ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL SUPREME FUEL FOR THE PERIOD COVERING DECEMBER 9, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 8, 2015 TO BE USED FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES, FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES, AND THE CITY HALL GENERATOR; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,000.00 FOR SAID PURCHASE.

MOTION by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Ordinance No. 146-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 146-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Ordinance No. 146-2014.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 146-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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Ordinance No. 151-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH PUBLIC FINANCE AND ENERGY ADVISORS, LLC, IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING, PROCUREMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AND CERTAIN OTHER RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY HALL, THE RECREATION CENTER, THE FIRE STATION, AND THE SERVICE GARAGE, AND THE MEASUREMENT, VERIFICATION, AND INSURING OF ENERGY AND OPERATIONAL SAVINGS RELATED THERETO.

Ordinance No. 151-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 152-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL, CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

Ordinance No. 152-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 153-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,388.00 FOR A ONE-YEAR SILVER PLAN SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE TELRAD 400 PHONE SYSTEM USED BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY COMPLEX (CITY HALL); SAID AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED INTO WITH RAYTEC SYSTEMS OF STOW, OHIO.

Ordinance No. 153-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 154-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$696.00 FOR THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE FIRE STATION NORTEL PHONE SYSTEM USED BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT; SAID AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED INTO WITH RAYTEC SYSTEMS OF STOW, OHIO.

Ordinance No. 154-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 155-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH BELENKY, INC., OF AKRON, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING A WASHER EXTRACTOR (UNIMAC 40-POUND EXTRACTOR MODEL UCN040HNFX208/220-240/60/1/3), WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR WASHING FIREFIGHTING TURNOUT GEAR, TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FIREFIGHTERS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500.00) FOR SAID PURCHASE.

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Ordinance No. 155-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 156-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 121.09, RULES OF COUNCIL, RULE 1 MEETINGS, SUBSECTION (a), REGULAR MEETINGS, AS CONTAINED IN SECTION 121.09, THE RULES OF COUNCIL, OF CHAPTER 121, COUNCIL, OF TITLE THREE, LEGISLATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING DUPLICATE VERBIAGE.

Ordinance No. 156-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 157-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 121.09, RULES OF COUNCIL, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 121, COUNCIL, OF TITLE THREE, LEGISLATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING RULE 10 STANDING COMMITTEES, SUBSECTION (a), APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES, TO AUTHORIZE A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO CALL SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Ordinance No. 157-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 158-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 125.02(a), DIRECTOR OF SENIOR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE DIRECTOR OF SENIOR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POSITION TO AN APPOINTED FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME POSITION THAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ELECTED TO COUNCIL.

Ordinance No. 158-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 159-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 130.01(a), ESTABLISHMENT, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AND TO AMEND SECTION 130.03, COMPENSATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 130, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME POSITION.

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Ordinance No. 159-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 160-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 151.091, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES GENERALLY, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 151, EMPLOYEES GENERALLY, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING PART-TIME COMPENSATION ON A PRO-RATED BASIS FOR THE POSITIONS OF DIRECTOR OF SENIOR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

Ordinance No. 160-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 161-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE PART-TIME PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS (P. Palmer, A. Toth, S. Laurenzi, T. Verderber, C. Quintana, M. McAdams, and N. Krist), AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING VARIOUS CLASSES AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Ordinance No. 161-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 162-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH HEALTH & FITNESS EQUIPMENT CENTERS OF EASTLAKE, OHIO, FOR PERFORMING MAINTENANCE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER'S FITNESS AND WEIGHT EQUIPMENT; AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$1,195.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 162-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 163-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WESTLAND HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING OF WESTLAKE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ON THE HVAC EQUIPMENT FOR ONE YEAR AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 163-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

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Ordinance No. 164-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL FIRE & SECURITY, INC., OF INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE FIRE & SPRINKLER ALARM SYSTEMS AT THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR ONE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,700.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 164-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 165-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WJS CONSTRUCTION OF OLMSTED TOWNSHIP, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THE MEN’S AND WOMEN’S LOCKER ROOMS AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX, WITH APPURTENANCES, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,718.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 165-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 166-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GERALD HAIRSTON, dba A CUT ABOVE THE REST LANDSCAPING & SNOW LLC, OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SNOW REMOVAL ON THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX GROUNDS FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2014 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2015, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,751.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 166-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 167-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COVERALL HEALTH-BASED CLEANING SYSTEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION AND FITNESS COMPLEX FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,104.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 167-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 168-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 148.051, COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX MEMBERSHIP FEES, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING RECREATION COMPLEX MEMBERSHIP FEES.

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Ordinance No. 168-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to amend Ordinance No. 170-2014 by changing the dollar amount of the value of the contract from \$3,000.00 to \$2,000.00 in the title of the Ordinance, in Section 1, and in Section 2.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

Amended Ordinance No. 170-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH STEWART LOVECE, PE, PS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Amended Ordinance No. 170-2014 by title only for its first and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Amended Ordinance No. 170-2014 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 170-2014 as an emergency measure.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 170-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 171-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014.

Ordinance No. 171-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Ordinance No. 172-2014 – AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Ordinance No. 172-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Resolution No. 41-2014 – A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO ADVANCE TAXES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE LEVIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Resolution No. 41-2014 by title only for its first and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Resolution No. 41-2014 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to adopt Resolution No. 41-2014 as an emergency measure.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2014 IS DECLARED ADOPTED.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Bryda had no miscellaneous comments.

Mr. Trafis:

Thank you, Mr. President. In our previous Caucus Meeting just one-half hour ago, we got some pretty good news about our 2014 budget projections. I just wanted to mention that prior to this news I have been very concerned about the financial difficulties of our City, and I proposed a budget road map for the creation of the 2015 budget. The budget in the past has not always been the most timely document because we, by law, have until March 31st in order to pass our budget, and we've been holding our hearings in March. The point of creating a road map to get things started sooner is to allow us more time in 2015 to make sure that our expenses are in line and we know, or at least have a good idea, what our projected revenues are going to be. I'm very happy though that Council and the Administration have taken a different position this year and moving the budget hearings up to January. It looks like there is some good news coming for Seven Hills, and I hope this trend continues.

Other than that, I had some other comments prepared, but with the absence of Mayor Dell'Aquila I'll hold off on that until our meeting in two weeks.

Mrs. Ernst had no miscellaneous comments.

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Mr. Snitzky:

A couple of things. First I would like to recognize Laura Bednar out in the audience – a student at my old alma mater, John Carroll. I've known her family for years. Her father, Mike Bednar, is a Magistrate in the City of Cleveland, and Laura is a Journalism major at JCU and she's here checking out how our Council operates. So I'm glad to see her.

Also, the Seven Hills Historical Society – they're a good organization and they do good work – a lot of interesting things they know that they've collected about the City – they are having a fund raiser at Mavis Winkles on Tuesday, December 16th, from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Go in there, give them your name, and tell them that you're there for the Historical Society, and 20% of their food, the food you purchase, will be contributed to the group. It's a good organization, and it's a decent restaurant. So if you're not doing anything next Tuesday evening, I would suggest you go out there and have some Sheppard Pie Stew to benefit the Historical Society.

That's all I have --- thank you.

Mr. Fraundorf had no miscellaneous comments.

Mrs. Lecznar had no miscellaneous comments.

Council President Barth:

I'd just like to reiterate somewhat what Matt said, that it was pretty good news that we got from our Finance Director. I know some will lead you to believe that the City is in dire financial straits, and we are not, as Councilman Trafis pointed out in our October 24th meeting that we have approximately \$3.5 million in cash reserves, and it looks like it is going to stay like that for this year. Having said all that, we still have some work ahead of us. We know that there are cuts coming in 2015 and beyond, so we are still going to have to look at raising what we tried to do with the police levy, close to \$1 million for 2015 and beyond. There are capital improvements that we want to make, streets we want to repair, and some work needs to be done at the Recreation Center. So we are going to have to definitely look at probably a revenue increase somewhere, because there just isn't enough to cut to make \$1 million.

Having said all that I want to say "Merry Christmas" to everybody, because we're not going to meet out here before Christmas.

Council President Barth was informed that there will be a formal Council Meeting on Monday, December 22, 2014.

I'm going to New York next week, so.....

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REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Director of Finance Johnson:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When we began the budget hearings in March of this year we projected that General Fund revenue for 2014 would be \$7,865,000, about 17% less than the previous year total of \$9,201,000. As of December 5, 2014 our General Fund revenue is \$7,667,262. I am confident that we will meet our projected revenue estimates and may exceed our projections in some areas. We have received \$165,000 in Estate Tax which we didn't expect, \$33,000 in rent from University Hospitals for space at the Recreation Center, \$62,000 in rebates from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation, and \$211,665 in reimbursement from the West Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase II & III project as a result of closing out that fund. The total of these revenues is about \$471,665. Tonight we are requesting \$124,797 in increased appropriations to complete 2014. This net increase takes into consideration the 3% wage increases granted to collective bargaining units that was not originally budgeted and significantly increased revenue amounts for outside counsel as a result of ongoing litigation. I am pleased to inform you that I am comfortable in projecting that our General Fund balance will remain near the same as when we started 2014. It is testament to the diligence of our Finance Department staff and their attention to accuracy and detail.

I repeated a comment that I made in 2013 and that is that it is imperative that Council seriously consider some revenue enhancement to counteract the precipitous drop in revenue we have experienced in the last several years. City Council listened and placed a police levy on the ballot. Unfortunately the results of the election were not positive.

As we begin to plan for 2015 I would like to reemphasize the need for additional revenue as outlined in my memorandum to Council dated May 16, 2014. That need still exists. We have sufficient reserves to continue to operate for 2015 at the same levels as we are currently, but that would mean possibly decreasing our available reserves. I would point out to you in the Moody's Investors Service Report that they warned that decreasing reserves could lead to a further lowering of our bond rating.

As we progress into 2015 let us keep in mind that we are all in this together and we must all work together to insure that we continue to stabilize our finances and at the same time provide quality services to the residents of the City of Seven Hills.

Thank you.

Council President Barth thanked Director Johnson for his report.

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Director of Law Pignatiello had no formal report.

Building Commissioner Moro was not present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Dell'Aquila was not present.

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The December 8, 2014 Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Michael C. Barth, President of Council

Attest: _____
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____