



SHAKER HEIGHTS

COUNCIL MINUTES January 14, 2019

In compliance with the provisions of the City Charter, the Mayor-elect, and members of Council of the City of Shaker Heights, met this date at 7:07 p.m. for the purpose of a special meeting.

* * * *

Vice Mayor Anne Williams thanked Judge K. J. Montgomery, who will be performing the swearing-in ceremony tonight for Mayor David E. Weiss. She also acknowledged members of the Mayor's family; Shaker Heights School Board members Lisa Cremer, Jeff Isaacs, and Heather Weingart; Cuyahoga County Director of Regional Collaboration Michele Pomerantz; University Heights Mayor Michael Brennan; Solon Mayor Ed Kraus; and former Shaker Heights Mayor Judy Rawson. Also present were multiple City directors. Mayor Weiss was appointed last year and then elected in November to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Earl Leiken through the end of this year.

* * * *

Judge K. J. Montgomery administered the Oath of Office to Mayor David E. Weiss.

Mayor Weiss thanked everyone for taking time out to share this moment with him. He stated that he is happy to be here and knows that he has large shoes to fill. Mayor Rawson and Mayor Leiken have done amazing things for the City. As he thinks about where we have been and where we are going a couple things come to mind: momentum; change and progress. We see a lot of positive things happening with the Van Aken district, housing and so many other great things. His hope is that the City can continue that momentum. Change is inevitable although it is sometimes hard to see. We need to embrace it and get out ahead of it. He prefers to be proactive rather than reactive. A good offense is better than a good defense. Change is something we need to accept and deal with. Shaker has an amazing streak of progress in so many areas as well as accomplishments. His goal as Mayor is to make progress in many different areas. From the Van Aken district to the Lee Road/Chagrin corridor, economic development is what will drive all the things we want to do. Many have heard him talk about fiscal stewardship and we will continue to run a tight ship, and a fiscally sound ship that will enable us to have the flexibility to do all the things we need to do. We are all aware that we have some challenges. Attracting and retaining residents is another key component in what we do. Hopefully those present will have a chance to speak to some of the directors and staff members tonight who deserve much of the credit for what goes on in the City, from the high quality services to supporting the neighborhoods and schools. These are all critical components of what we do. Government efficiency and modernization is an area he feels we need to focus on, whether through improvements in how we do things, to investing in technology and providing a workplace

environment where we can attract the best and brightest people who are committed to community service. We have a great tradition and history in that regard. Transparency in communication will continue from Council and the Administration by providing information to our residents so people know what we are doing and how we are doing it. Regionalism continues to be an area of emphasis. He hopes we can build on some success that we have had such as the joint dispatch. This is critical to getting out ahead of economic or operational issues. When appropriate we will see more in that regard. Over the past several years we have had an emphasis on sustainability. We will be increasing our efforts to address sustainability issues in our community. This is not just the right thing to do but it is actually the smart thing to do. We will continue to make progress in that area. We will also continue our focus and investment in people. Many of you know this is what makes Shaker Heights so special. We will continue to celebrate and encourage the diversity that has made Shaker Heights a unique place to live. We will make sure to do the kinds of things to enable all of our residents to take full advantage of everything that this City and our country has to offer its citizens. He recognizes this is a tall order, and he also recognizes that he can't do half of what he would like to do without the help of City Council and staff and the rest of the members of our team. He looks forward to working with everyone as we take Shaker Heights to the next phase. He thanked everyone for their attendance.

* * * *

Council members present: Mr. Malone, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder
Mrs. Senturia, Ms. Williams
Mr. Williams, Mr. Zimmerman

Council members absent: None

* * * *

Audio of this meeting may be found [here](#) through April 19, 2019.

* * * *

The Mayor invited members of the audience to comment on any of the agenda items.
No comments were offered.

* * * *

Various Appointments to Council Committees.

Mayor Weiss stated that we are reallocating the responsibilities of the Building, Housing and Technology Committee back to the Neighborhood Revitalization and Development Committee. In lieu of the Building, Housing and Technology Committee we are creating a Sustainability Committee. This is an elevation of the Sustainable Shaker Task Force to a level commensurate with the amount of effort and time we would like to spend on these issues. He is pleased to announce that Council member Mrs. Senturia has agreed to chair this important Committee. It is an area near and dear to her heart as well as others.

*

*

*

*

Ordinance No. 19-01, by Ms. Williams, authorizing a renewal of the Master Services Agreement with Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. for provision of Retail Natural Gas Services for the City's Natural Gas Aggregation Program, for a period from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that in 2006 the City started its gas aggregation program for residents and small businesses which was approved by the voters. We have about 6,000 participants currently. Since 2005, we have been working with AMPO Inc. as our consultant. They select the supplier, monitor the gas prices, act as a liaison with the supplier to make sure we have good customer service, and help with any problem solving. AMPO Inc. is a not-for-profit and also a gas aggregator in Ohio and beyond. Every 2 years they solicit proposals for gas for the City from suppliers and IGS has been recommended as the lowest and best supplier. In 2018 Council approved a 1-year contract with IGS to buy gas. That contract lasts through March 31, 2019. Council requested a 1-year contract in order to evaluate NOPEC, which has an electric aggregation in the City to see if we should use them. Last fall AMPO sought proposals from 10 suppliers and 4 responded. NOPEC did not respond to AMPO's proposal but submitted a proposal directly to the City. Of the 4 proposals submitted IGS had the lowest fixed rate at \$3.15/mcf if we committed for 24 months and \$3.28/mcf if we committed for 12 months. NOPEC submitted a fixed rate of \$3.10 for 6 months. However, that does not cover the winter months when our residents use the most gas. After 6 months the rate would go up to whatever they are charging for other participants. They do not provide a fixed rate for 12 months or 24 months. Shaker's own aggregation rate has been lower than NOPEC's 70% of the months between January 2016 and March 2018, including the winter months. Our residents prefer having a fixed rate. The recommendation is to go with IGS and if the rate is close to what was submitted, to purchase gas for the entire 24 months at the fixed rate. If it is not we plan to purchase gas for only 6 months and then buy the rest throughout the 24-month period. IGS needs a commitment by February 1. This item was reviewed and supported by the Finance and Administration Committee.

Mayor Weiss stated that these rates are fixed rates but residents may opt out of this program. It is attractive pricing and he found it particularly interesting and unusual that the 24-month rate is lower than the 12-month rate. While he might have deferred action on this through normal processes, he and the Administration did not want to lose what could be a very attractive rate for a 24-month period.

Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer, added that we are very lucky to have the utilities expertise of Law Director William M. Ondrey Gruber. That is unique for a city and the reason we are able to operate our own gas aggregation program. We still have the option to go with NOPEC when the time is appropriate.

It was moved by Ms. Williams, and seconded by Mr. Malone, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 19-01 be placed upon its final enactment.

