The Council of the City of Shaker Heights met in a regular session at 7:34 p.m., Mayor David E. Weiss presiding.

Council Members Present: Mrs. Moore  
Mr. Roeder  
Ms. Anne Williams  
Ms. Carmella Williams  
Mr. Earl Williams  
Mr. Zimmerman  
Mr. Malone

Council Members Absent: None

Audio of this meeting may be found [here](#) through May 24, 2020.

Patrick Sweeney, Fire Chief, thanked the Mayor and members of Council for allowing the swearing-in ceremony of the newest firefighter, Connor Groh. There is a long process to get to this place. A year ago about 150 applicants took the test. They identified the top candidates and moved them on to the different stages of the process, including a background check, polygraph exam, psychological exam, and medical exam. We feel very strongly that one of the most important things is to identify the best candidates and employees to work for the Fire Department. When the residents are in need in the community we want to send individuals of the highest caliber. We are entering their homes at a time of need when things are not going well for them. Residents need to know we have individuals that have been vetted thoroughly. Through the vetting process we feel strongly that Connor Groh meets the standards set forth for the Fire Department. The Chief stated that he is proud to have Connor here.

Chief Sweeney gave a history of Connor’s background and Connor introduced his family and friends who were present.

Mayor Weiss administered the oath of office.

At 7:45 p.m. a Council work session was held.
Mayor Weiss stated that as we started this year there were a number of initiatives, some that carried forward from last year and some that are new. While working on the budget last year, we recognized and he was reminded that we are spending a significant amount on maintenance and landscaping on the growing number of empty lots in the City. When originally adopted, the side lot program had some success, but we were not having the success that we had hoped in terms of getting them built on or into productive and a taxable use in the community. He charged Neighborhood Revitalization Department Director Kamla Lewis with coming up with recommendations to tweak the program to see whether we could help accelerate the processes of getting these assets back on the tax rolls. She will be presenting the changes being recommended and requesting feedback from Council. This is more so informational but he wanted Council to be aware of the proposed changes.

Neighborhood Revitalization Department Director Kamla Lewis gave a presentation on the Pilot Side Lot Program.

At 8:29 p.m. Council returned to the regular meeting.

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It was moved by Mr. Earl Williams, and seconded by Ms. Carmella Williams, that the minutes of the organizational meeting of January 6, 2020, be approved as recorded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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It was moved by Mrs. Moore, and seconded by Ms. Anne Williams, that the minutes of the special meeting of January 13, 2020, be approved as recorded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, and seconded by Ms. Carmella Williams, that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2020, be approved as amended.
Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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The Mayor invited members of the audience to comment on any of the agenda items.

No comments were offered.

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Ordinance No. 20-14, by Mr. Zimmerman, recognizing the appointment of Mayor David E. Weiss to the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (“GCRTA”) and his representation on said Board of the City’s interests, as well as the interests of all citizens of this City and of Cuyahoga County.

William M. Ondrey Gruber, Law Director, stated that in the past Council has appointed both mayors and staff of the City to represent the City’s interests on non-profit boards where there could be a conflict of interest because the City has or may have a contractual relationship with those organizations and that can run afoul of Ohio law regarding having an interest in an unlawful, pecuniary or fiduciary interest in a public contract. In order to avoid any possible conflict and any appearance of conflict, he recommends that Council approve legislation recognizing the appointment of Mayor Weiss on the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and his representation on the Board of the City’s interests as well as those of course of all citizens of this City and Cuyahoga County. In December 2019 Mayor Weiss was elected by the Cuyahoga County Mayor’s and City Managers Association to the Board of Trustees for a term commencing on March 3, 2020. There are three members of that Board who are appointed by the Cuyahoga County Mayor’s and City Managers Association. The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County also appoints members to that Board. The City also has annual contracts with RTA for the provision of services by the City to maintain the landscaping along the rail lines and has other contractual interactions involving a transfer agreement from 1975, which is still invoked and interpreted. We recently had it amended for the Van Aken development. In order to avoid any possible claim of a conflict this Council may name the Mayor in his official capacity to represent the City’s interests.

Council member Mr. Earl Williams asked if there was any possibility of a conflict by the Mayor being a member of the Board.

Director Gruber responded only as a fiduciary. As long as the Mayor is representing the City’s interest on that Board it is an exception to any possible conflict under state law.

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, and seconded by Ms. Anne Williams, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 20-14 be placed upon its final enactment.
Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mr. Zimmerman, and seconded by Ms. Anne Williams, that Ordinance No. 20-14 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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Ordinance No. 20-15, by Mr. Earl Williams, approving and authorizing execution of a Purchase Agreement under the City's Side Lot Program, for the sale of the City-owned property located at 3654 Daleford Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio, for a purchase price of $50.00, authorizing the disposition of City-owned property without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

Neighborhood Revitalization Department Director Kamla Lewis stated that Gregory Huffman of 3658 Daleford Road has applied to acquire the adjacent City-owned vacant lot at 3654 Daleford Road. He proposes to enclose it with an ornamental fence behind the City landscaping, maintain the beautiful tree at the front of the property with appropriate pruning and trimming, and remove the stump at the back of the property. He is offering $50 for the lot and proposes capital improvements in the amount of $5,906.

Director Gruber asked if this application will follow the new protocol for the proposed side lot program.

Director Lewis stated that she informed Mr. Huffman that staff can take this to the City Planning Commission on his behalf if he wishes, and it will include the new language regarding trees.

It was moved by Mr. Earl Williams, and seconded by Ms. Anne Williams, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 20-15 be placed upon its final enactment.
Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mr. Earl Williams, and seconded by Ms. Anne Williams, that Ordinance No. 20-15 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder, Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams, Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Malone

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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The Mayor invited members of the audience to comment on any issues.

No comments were offered.

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There being no further business before Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

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DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

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JERI E. CHAIKIN, Clerk of Council