

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD February 9, 2015

This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michele K. Ernst at 7:49 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell'Aquila, 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, Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst, and Director of Public Service and Properties Moga. Absentee was Building Commissioner Moro.

At this point of the meeting, immediately after Roll Call, Councilman Fraundorf entertained a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Trafis, to amend the agenda so that Reports and Communications from the Mayor/Safety Director occur before Council Miscellaneous.

Mr. Barth brought up a point of order to Law Director Pignatiello, saying "Doesn't the President of Council set the agenda?"

Law Director Pignatiello replied, "Yes, the Council President sets the agenda."

Mr. Barth stated, "Thank you -- so the motion is out of order?"

Law Director Pignatiello answered, "I don't think that it's a Council vote."

Mr. Barth replied, "Thank you."

Mr. Trafis asked, "We can't amend an agenda? We've amended them before."

Law Director Pignatiello replied, "I think it's up to Michele."

Council President Ernst inquired, "Then we will not be taking a vote?"

Mr. Trafis added, "But we've amended agendas in the past."

Council President Ernst resumed Council's agenda.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 26, 2015, as printed.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to accept the Consent Agenda of February 9, 2015, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

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RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION

There were no Resolutions of Commendation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the minutes from the previous meeting (Tuesday, January 20, 2015) are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Snitzky said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, February 17, 2015.

Public Works

Public Works Committee Chairman Bryda stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, 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, March 2, 2015.

Community Services

Community Services Committee Chairman Fraundorf stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, 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, March 2, 2015.

Police and Fire

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Trafis stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, January 20, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Trafis stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, February 17, 2015.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson Lecznar stated that the Committee last met in special session on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Lecznar stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, March 16, 2015.

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Ernst stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, 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, March 2, 2015.

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Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Barth stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are forthcoming.

Mr. Barth stated that the Finance Committee will conduct its Budget Hearings in special session this Saturday, February 14, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Barth stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, February 17, 2015.

APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

Mayor Dell'Aquila requested to be recognized by Council President Ernst.

Mayor Dell'Aquila made the following comments:

“Madam President, I do have one. As you know, Seven Hills is entitled to have two Board Members on University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Board of Trustees, one of whose tenure is about to expire at the end of May. The hospital has asked us to indicate to them by the end of February whether we have intentions of reappointing him to that position. I think we all know what a great job Eric Moore and Nino Seritti have done as the Seven Hills representatives to the hospital, and since Nino Seritti’s tenure there is about to expire at the end of May, it’s incumbent upon us to either reappoint or not reappoint. So, at this time I am asking that Council reappoint Nino Seritti as one of its two member representatives to the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Board of Trustees.”

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to confirm and accept the reappointment of **NINO SERITTI** to the **University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Board of Trustees**.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The reappointment of Nino Seritti to the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Board of Trustees is hereby approved.

Mayor Dell'Aquila thanked Council for the confirmation of Mr. Seritti’s reappointment.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS

There were no communications, petitions, or claims.

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COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

Tom Jaros, 224 Crescent Ridge Drive, made the following comments:

“I just want to state again that Ward 1 is interested in seeing the reinstatement of the Ward Clause. We’re also concerned about removing the specification of Section 7, Chapter XIV from the Charter. Thank you.”

Council President Ernst thanked Mr. Jaros for his comments.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Amended 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.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Amended Ordinance No. 158-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 158-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 158-2014.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 158-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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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Mr. Trafis stated:

“Ordinance No. 159-2014 is regarding the Director of Human Resources position. That position is currently unfilled. This particular ordinance changes the status – the classification – allowing a full-time position to be hired or a part-time position. Currently it is just full-time. The Mayor indicated that he has no plans of filling this position at this time, but I strongly believe that we don’t need this position at all. We have existing staff that currently fills some of the responsibilities of this job. Any responsibilities that may not be filled in this job can be picked up by the Mayor or the existing personnel. At the following meeting I intend to bring forward legislation to eliminate this position, but in the meantime to make sure that we don’t spend any money whatsoever on this, I’m going to make a motion.”

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to amend Ordinance No. 159-2014 to eliminate ‘full-time or part-time position’ at the end of the ordinance and replace it by saying the Director of Human Resources would be an unpaid position.

Council President Ernst asked Law Director Pignatiello if the subject motion was in order.

Law Director Pignatiello replied, “Yes, if Council wants to go along with it.”

Roll Call: Barth, nay; Bryda, nay; Ernst, nay; Fraundorf, yea;
Lecznar, nay; Snitzky, nay; Trafis, yea

2 yea, 5 nay

MOTION DEFEATED

MOTION by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Barth, to read Ordinance No. 159-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, nay;
Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis, yea

6 yea, 1 nay

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 159-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Barth, to pass Ordinance No. 159-2014.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“Like I said, I don’t think that the City needs this position at all. The money isn’t there. We’re struggling financially. This is just one more job that could potentially be filled that I don’t think we need to be spending money on. I’ll be voting ‘no’ on this.”

Mr. Fraundorf stated:

“I am also voting ‘no’ against Ordinance No. 159-2014 because in this time of financial struggles in Seven Hills I believe the money for a full or part-time position would be better spent on our streets and infrastructure such as sewer issues. I am in favor of revisiting this issue when our financial house is in order.”

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Council President Ernst stated:

“I would like to say that I actually brought this to Council at the same time that I brought the ordinance to change the Senior and Community Services Director to a full-time or part-time position. This is something that the State Audit spoke to quite a bit, that this position could be helpful. In fact, in several sections they said that we don’t have anybody doing these jobs, and it would keep some of our costs down. The Mayor has said that he is not planning on filling this position at this time, but I think it behooves us to have it as a full-time or part-time position since most of our jobs in Seven Hills are part-time positions. So that’s why I brought it to Council.”

Mrs. Lecznar stated:

“I want to make a note that this ordinance was not just introduced now. It was just changed now. It has been on the books since 2007. If no one has been hired since 2007, there’s not going to be anybody hired in the near future. There’s no reason we need to take it off the books. Thank you.”

Mr. Barth stated:

“I just want to reiterate what Councilwoman Lecznar said. This ordinance has been on the books for eight years. I think when we created the position it was filled for a very short time. The gentleman left. We never funded it after. The position cannot be filled unless Council approves the funding.”

Mr. Snitzky stated:

“I think one of the things that’s important in administering any organization is to give administrators flexibility. Obviously we’re not going to fill the position. It hasn’t been filled. We have some wonderful Directors that are doing things above and beyond their positions to take care of these needs. You really need to give the management flexibility to do what needs to be done. So just changing the rule so that somebody can be hired full or part-time down the road – maybe – I think is one of those things that is good business practice.”

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

Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis, nay

5 yea, 2 nay

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 159-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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, 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.

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MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to read Ordinance No. 160-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 160-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to pass Ordinance No. 160-2014.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“Ordinance No. 160-2014 goes hand-in-hand with Ordinance No. 159-2014 by changing the compensation pro-rating it for a part-time position. Obviously I disagree that the position should be there, so I will be voting ‘no’ on this as well.”

Mr. Fraundorf stated:

“I am also voting ‘no’ on Ordinance No. 160-2014 because in this time of financial struggles in Seven Hills I believe the money for a full or part-time position would be better spent on our streets and infrastructure such as sewers. I am in favor of revisiting this issue when our financial house is in order.”

Council President Ernst stated:

“Ordinance No. 160-2014 is also changing the compensation for the Director of Senior and Community Services to allow it to be either a full-time or part-time position. So, that is part of why this was brought to Council.”

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

Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis, nay

5 yea, 2 nay

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 160-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 4-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

Ordinance No. 4-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 5-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH BRANDI BOSWELL FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ZUMBA CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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Ordinance No. 5-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 6-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH PHILIP TOMBERLAIN II FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIRECTING THE ROOKIE ATHLETIC YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Ordinance No. 6-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 7-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 707.01(b), DEFINITIONS, AND TO AMEND SECTION 707.02(a), ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF CITY ARBORIST, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 707, STREET TREES, OF TITLE ONE, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF PART SEVEN, STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR AS THE CITY'S ARBORIST.

Ordinance No. 7-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 8-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH KROCK ESSER ENGINEERING, INC., OF RICHFIELD, OHIO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500.00 FOR SERVICES PROVIDED FOR OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD AND PINNACLE PARK DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS (Prepare Bid Package and Publicly Bid Project KEE#15774); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Ordinance No. 8-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 8-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Ordinance No. 8-2015 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 8-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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Ordinance No. 9-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH KROCK ESSER ENGINEERING, INC., OF RICHFIELD, OHIO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000.00 FOR SERVICES PROVIDED FOR ROCKSIDE ROAD AND PINNACLE PARK DRIVE TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION (Prepare Bid Package and Publicly Bid Project KEE#15774A); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Ordinance No. 9-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 9-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to pass Ordinance No. 9-2015 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Bryda stated:

“I just want to clarify. These two ordinances are being passed as emergency measures so we can get them out to bid in a timely manner to get the projects rolling for this spring and summer.”

Mr. Barth stated:

“I’d just like to say this is a long time coming. When the County pulled the lights on Rockside there was an uproar of the residents who live North of Rockside. We tried to convince the County to put the lights back. The Mayor even talked to Congresswoman Fudge about it. We talked to the State of Ohio to no avail. We probably would have put this in with our money because we feel it’s very important. It’s a dangerous situation not to have any lights either on Skyline or on Pinnacle Park. We really believe that there should be one of them. But we got a little bit creative here and we’re using the TIF financing for it so this isn’t costing the City anything. I’m excited about this light, and I know all the residents North of Rockside are as well.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 9-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 10-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING WITH THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION IN CARRYING OUT MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM RULES, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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MOTION by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 10-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 10-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 10-2015 as an emergency measure.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 10-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 11-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT (FEBRUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2017) WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING AND HOSTING THE CITY’S WEBSITE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Ordinance No. 11-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 11-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Ordinance No. 11-2015 as an emergency measure.

Mrs. Lecznar stated:

“I just want to thank Jen Burger, our Recreation Director, and Councilman Fraundorf for their diligent work on the website that we’re putting together. They brought us some mock-ups of what the new website would look like and it’s going to be a lot more improved than what it is now. The ordinance that we’re passing now is basically just a little bit more of a refining of the work they’re going to be doing on the website from the previous contract that we had. Thank you.”

Mr. Barth stated:

“I’d just like to say that this is a good example of what can be accomplished when you have a Council and the City working together. I’d like to thank Councilman Fraundorf for his work on this. When I was Council President I asked him to represent Council in coming up with a better website. In working together with Jen they did an admirable job. Thank you.”

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 11-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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At this point in the meeting it was necessary for Council President Ernst to exit Council Chambers briefly. Council President Pro Tem Barth temporarily took the chair.

Ordinance No. 12-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH MERITECH, INC., OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, FOR THE KYOCERA 3050 DOCUMENT IMAGING SYSTEM BEING USED AT THE SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX; AND APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,400.00 FOR SAID SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Ordinance No. 12-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Ordinance No. 13-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1143.07, NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1143, EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE, OF TITLE THREE, LOCAL BUILDING PROVISIONS, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION REFERENCE FOR DELIVERY OF A NONCOMPLIANCE NOTICE.

Ordinance No. 13-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Council President Ernst returned to the dais.

Council President Ernst stated:

“I apologize. I took my cough medicine right before I came. I was hoping it would last through the entire meeting. But apparently not.”

Ordinance No. 14-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – 2014 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,984.90, TO BE USED FOR THREE (3) MDT LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES; APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$776.00 FOR THE CITY’S PORTION OF THE EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 14-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

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Ordinance No. 14-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 14-2015 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Snitzky stated:

“I think we should tell the folks that the reason we’re doing this on an emergency basis is because it came up rather suddenly. It’s grant money that is well spent – we spend \$776.00 and we end up getting three computers for the Police Department. That’s why it was done on an emergency.”

Council President Ernst stated:

“I was very excited when I heard about this last Thursday. I think it’s really great. These are new computers. To get a grant that we have to not match evenly is fairly uncommon, so this was really exciting to me.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 14-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 15-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 147-2014, PASSED BY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 24, 2014, WHICH APPROPRIATED A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$21,563.36 FOR THE PURCHASE OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL PRINTING DEVICES (COPIERS), TO INCLUDE THE RICOH USA, INC., EQUIPMENT SALE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (Service Term 60 Months) AND THE ORDER AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to read Ordinance No. 15-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 15-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to pass Ordinance No. 15-2015 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 15-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

Tom Jaros, 224 Crescent Ridge Drive made the following comments:

“Just asked the Mayor a pretty simple question in Caucus. He refused to answer and said he’s going to have a prepared statement.”

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Mr. Jaros continued:

“There’s been a discussion here about who speaks in what order. I really think the people of the City should be the last ones to talk since we’re the ones that pay all of you. And we’re going to listen to some kind of rhetoric and won’t have any chance to respond. That’s not what I asked for at all. You guys should really consider letting us have the last word, and that way you can focus on what we’re saying and understand what we want. A lot of us feel it’s not happening.”

Mr. Jaros continued:

“Mr. Barth, you just made a statement ‘all the residents north of Rockside Road are excited about the traffic light’. I’d like to see whatever input you had to justify that statement. Last week you told me that you had a meeting with a large number of residents on the corner side to talk about that light. My problem is, you’re spending 7500 bucks now, and you’re going to spend more later to put a light in that the residents’ needs haven’t justified for two years. Now that the Biltmore is almost done, now the residents’ needs are important. This is to benefit the Biltmore mostly. I did a little research – your big corner side meeting – there were ten or fifteen residents. You never mentioned anything about spending General Fund money. You just said that traffic surveys wouldn’t allow that thing to be put in, and now you’re switching up and going the other way and saying everybody is going to be happy. That’s just patently wrong. The Biltmore people should be paying for that light.”

Mr. Jaros continued:

“And Mr. Snitzky, last week you addressed me personally – you made disparaging remarks about my character. Something to the affect that something happened when we were kids. I came to Seven Hills when I was thirteen, so you would have been about five. Unless I poked you with a diaper pin, I can’t imagine whatever I could have done to you to upset you. You should take a look at time lines and discontinue making disparaging remarks about my character. And that will do it folks. Thank you.”

Council President Ernst thanked Mr. Jaros for his comments.

Laurie Regal, 1116 John Glenn Drive, made the following comments:

“There is a condemned house on East Meadowlawn that I’m really concerned about. I pass that house every day because my parents live on East Parkleigh where I grew up. So I’m just wondering if anyone knows anything about it. It literally looks like it’s just going to collapse, and it’s full of black mold. And the chimney now is open, so I think the animals are having a field day. If you have any information about that – it’s a real concern. If I lived down that street I’d be going crazy because black mold gets in the air and it’s not safe at all. Thank you.”

Council President Ernst thanked Mrs. Regal for her comments.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Snitzky had no miscellaneous comments.

Mr. Fraundorf made the following remarks:

Two weeks ago, I was not permitted to respond to the Mayor's statements at our Council Meeting. I feel strongly that Council members should have an opportunity to reply during the same meeting. Having waited for two weeks I will now use this opportunity to comment regarding the situation with Longbow Research, the tenant that is leaving Seven Hills for Independence. The Mayor's posture attempted to make Longbow an "internal political issue".

I couldn't help but listen with bemusement as the Mayor attempted to explain away the "Longbow Incident". The Mayor stated he contacted Longbow management to apologize for the recent controversy and uncomfortable press they recently received.

At the January 26, 2015 Council meeting, the Mayor finally shared with Council that Seven Hills was never in the running to retain Longbow along with a number of reasons why that was so. My response to a local reporter's question, that apparently made Longbow management and the Mayor so uncomfortable, simply asked "was everything done that could have been done by Mayor Dell'Aquila to retain this business in Seven Hills?" A fair question for the fair minded. If the Mayor was aware of the reasons Longbow was leaving Seven Hills prior to two weeks ago, he certainly never informed all of Council.

Awkward for him, he is legally obligated to inform Council of issues impacting the financial condition of the City. I quote: Section IV-5 Executive Powers and Duties (of the Mayor). He shall at "all times" keep the Council "fully" advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City.

The Charter does not say "he shall when to his convenience" or "should he feel like it" or "only to a select few on Council, as it pleases the Mayor". No, the Charter is specific stating "shall at ALL TIMES and FULLY advise Council regarding the financial condition of the City".

We all agree to the significant negative financial impact as a result of the Longbow relocation. And it is precisely because of situations like this, that our City Charter mandates that Council must be made at all times and fully aware, by the Mayor, of significant losses to the City income tax base in order to make prudent fiscal decisions.

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Mr. Fraundorf (continued):

And coincidentally, it was on the very day of our January 26, 2015 Council meeting where we, at long last, learned the reasons for the Longbow departure and where the Mayor said he received, quote “clearance” unquote, to mention the possibility of a new tenant for the Longbow space. The Mayor then used Council’s meeting to blame others for the Longbow controversy caused by his lack of communication with Council. The Mayor exploited Council’s meeting and Council’s speaking order agenda structure, which limits the opportunity for dialogue by Council to the Mayor’s claims. Which, as an aside, the speaking order can simply be changed by the Council President. This is an example of the manner in which the Mayor updates Council of fiscal conditions and needs of the City. Not “shall at all times” but rather at his convenience and design.

Please forgive me for using the “P” word. But, the Mayor also couldn’t help himself from once again blaming “politics” for the Longbow Incident. This “Johnny one note” fallback position is continually used by the Mayor when one challenges or questions the actions of the Mayor. The responsibilities of Council, which embraces differences of opinion, have been bastardized in Seven Hills. May I remind my fellow Council members and in particular the four of us that attended the Newly Elected Officials Seminar, co-hosted by Cuyahoga County Council and Cleveland State’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, of the two commanding responsibilities of Council presented at this seminar: Evaluate the performance of Executive branch departments and agencies, and Act as a check on executive power.

Differences of opinion, checks and balances, and the City Charter have been cheapened, stolen, if you will in Seven Hills. The definition of Council leadership has been distorted to a second-rate vow of submissiveness to Mayoral foibles. When residents complain of bickering by elected officials, what they really are saying and perhaps without realizing it, is our City Charter has been usurped. It has been purposefully misinterpreted to suit personal agendas and then passed off as authentic.

I offer three questions that we on Council should always ask regarding our roles on Council and the “check on Mayoral power”.

- Is the Mayor and his Directors responsive to residents?
- Is the Mayor responsive to Council?
- Is the Mayor acting in the best interest of the Community?

I will not buy into the “just go along” mentality of the last 12 years that ran this City into the financial ditch we struggle with even today. I refuse to abdicate my fiduciary responsibility or act as a rubber stamp simply because that is the less prickly route. Thank you.

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Mr. Bryda:

I just want to address the 963 house on Meadowlawn. It recently changed hands. It was in auction on February 2nd. We have the new owner's address and contact information and we'll be pursuing them to make the improvements, just like we were at the last one, which was bank-owned. I know Jack will probably speak to this – we'll be pursuing them for any violations that are existing right now.

Mrs. Lecznar:

I just want to wish everybody a Happy Valentine's Day. I know I'll be spending it all day with the people that I love!

Mr. Barth said "thank you!"

Mrs. Lecznar replied, "Yea, right!"

Mr. Trafis:

We have our Budget Hearings on Valentine's Day – so, that's the point of Caryl's joke.

All I want to say tonight is that there are a lot of different opinions – and dialogue is good. People in this City are looking for their representatives, I believe, to come up with different thoughts and ideas in how to run the City. Sometimes people up on the dais don't agree. Most of the time they do. But, when people that are elected don't agree on something, it's not politics. Frankly, I'm getting a little tired of hearing that. You have a way of thinking, and when you stand up for that, I think that's the right thing to do. And if somebody else doesn't agree with you, so be it – it's not politics. I just want to make that very clear. We're all trying to do the best thing for the City. This back and forth....it's not the case. I'm just going to leave it at that tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Barth:

I'd like to address what Councilman Fraundorf said. I did say at the last Caucus Meeting that Mayor Dell'Aquila did tell me way back in August, and we were on break at the time, about Longbow. I was President of Council and I was Chairman of the Finance Committee, and I did not bring it to Council. I simply forgot about it because we were on break. And I think Councilman Trafis can sympathize with that because he said he forgot about it when he ignored the Ohio Revised Code and revealed Longbow's personal tax information. That was the excuse he used. Mine is not an excuse. Thank you.

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Council President Ernst:

I have something I'd like to say.

It is no secret that I am new to public service; everyone on this dais has been involved in Seven Hills politics longer, even my fellow freshmen Council Members. What I do bring is a long career in customer service including 33 years at AT&T (under its various names). During my career at AT&T I learned many lessons; however, there were two that I hold as most important. The first is to be responsive to your customers. This is something that I think Seven Hills can improve upon, but I am happy to say that our two newest members of the Administration – Tony Terry and Jack Moga – have demonstrated that commitment since they joined Seven Hills. The other lesson that AT&T stressed was to be positive about the company in public. In other words, don't trash the company or your coworkers to the customer. The City of Seven Hills is our business and you, the residents, are our customers. It does not serve anyone's best interests to continually highlight the negatives about Seven Hills.

In the January 15th Sun News, the Mayor wrote a letter to the editor highlighting some of the positives for the City in 2014. That is part of his job as Mayor – he should be an ambassador of good will for the City, and actually everyone on this dais should be an ambassador. If the news of Seven Hills highlights only the negatives about our City, what is going to possibly entice new residents or businesses to settle in Seven Hills?

I am proud of what this Council and the Administration accomplished in 2014. We did the first significant road work since 2008. While a good portion of that money did come from the County, Council approved issuance of bonds in the amount of \$1,280,000.00 to pay for road work so Seven Hills did share in the burden.

The City also actively sought grants which will help fund road work on the north side of Rockside Road and the Hemlock Creek Sewer project. It is true that grant money has been available in years past; it is also true that Seven Hills has to look for and compete for grants; they are not just offered to us.

The Rec Center was often a point of discussion in 2014. I am very pleased that current administration has found the ways and means to lower the deficit and that now the Rec Center is close to breaking even. It was built with a planned \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 operating deficit which increased to \$400,000.00 under the previous administration. The current Administration along with the management at the Rec Center has done a commendable job of reducing costs while dealing with required maintenance because of the age of the facility and structural issues.

I could go on; however, I will end this with the hope that we as Council can work together with the Administration to enhance Seven Hills' reputation – not tarnish it. Thank you.

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Mr. Trafis asked to be recognized and made the following additional remarks:

“I have to bring up this Longbow thing again. In the Independence ordinance, when they basically purged Longbow from Seven Hills, stated that the annual payroll of Longbow is \$6.5 million. Independence has a 2% tax rate. That equates to \$130,000.00 of generated revenue. I’m not sure how many times I’m going to have to explain this to some of my colleagues, but this was public information in the Independence ordinance. It’s no secret. Anybody could have found that out.”

Council President Ernst responded, “The amount that you quoted was the exact amount of income tax that they paid, and you acknowledged that you got it from our Finance Department.”

Mr. Trafis replied, “And this number is not secret. It’s all over the place.”

Council President Ernst answered, “That was not the number that you quoted in your statement. The \$130,000.00 was not what you quoted. We will now have Reports from the Directors of Departments and Other Officials.”

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Director of Finance Johnson had no formal report.

Director of Law Pignatiello had no formal report.

Director of Public Service and Properties Moga:

The last snow storm WKYC Channel 3 News was out on Buttonwood off of Ridgewood. I think it was televised at 5:00 a.m., and they rated Seven Hills probably as one of the best communities after the last snow storm. I wanted to bring that up, and I really commend my guys for doing a good job as we continue to improve our services for our residents. Thank you.

Building Commissioner Moro was not present.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Dell’Aquila made the following comments:

Thank you Madam President. I must say it’s a little disheartening to sit here and listen to some of the language being thrown around, but it’s incumbent on me, unfortunately, to have to respond to some of it. There are some good things, too.

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Mayor Dell'Aquila (continued):

As everyone is aware, a group of Mayors through the Mayors and Managers Association, have been in contact with the ODNR to try to get the State more involved in the deer issue that we're facing. Not only here locally in Seven Hills, but throughout the region. We've had very positive contact with them, as I think I may have mentioned in a prior meeting, we provided to them certain statistical information. We're trying to set up a second meeting. Well, apparently we've caught the attention of The Plain Dealer. In yesterday's edition, February 8, 2015, there is an editorial by a former member of the Ohio House indicating that in his opinion the group of us who are in contact and approaching the ODNR are on the right track. He believes, in this article, that only through a regional effort can smaller communities such as ours address this regional issue. So, with Council's permission, I'd like to offer a photocopy of that article to be included with this evening's minutes.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer article entitled, "A Plan to Control Deer – and the Wildlife Division", dated Sunday, February 8, 2015, as submitted by Mayor Dell'Aquila, has been included and appended to these minutes as an exhibit.

I also want to thank Council for the quick passage of Ordinance No. 14-2015, the Police MDT computers. We want to make sure that we get the police equipment into the vehicles as quickly as possible. Our matching is about 10% of the total grant, and so it's a great return on that investment.

Jeff, you have already mentioned the house. We have learned that the house has been auctioned. The way these things work is that they first have to go to confirmation by the court, so until the sale is actually confirmed and a deed is actually transferred, there is no specific individual that we can contact. I forgot who it was that asked that question – I think you, maam, asked that question (*referring to Mrs. Regal who was seated in the audience*). Originally what happened is that the owner of that property was not a United States citizen, and he left the country. That left the house in a state where there was simply no individual within the United States that we could serve notice upon. Luckily, the bank stepped forward and did a little bit to provide a management firm to help maintain some of it. As you probably recall, we got them to take down that large tree in the front yard. We were having significant problems though getting into the house. Obviously, you need a search warrant to get into private property. So I've instructed the Building Commissioner to pay attention to the court records. Once we know that the house is transferred, and we actually have an individual in title and responsible, I'm going to be expecting that they do everything they can to make sure that this new owner steps on the gas and gets this thing resolved as quickly as possible. We're very much aware of that. We've been chasing that thing down since this past summer, right around the time when you saw that tree come down. So we are aware of it.

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Mayor Dell'Aquila (continued):

On the Longbow issue, I'm going to try to take it down a couple of notches. I try to have a thick skin, and hopefully I've demonstrated that repeatedly. To take personal offense at attacks, I think, doesn't serve the City well, and certainly is not something that I want to engage in. But, information was provided to the Finance Chair. I have been in regular contact with the owner of the building. I can tell you that he also was surprised that Longbow was leaving. However, they are receiving \$3 million in upgrades in the new building in Independence and a \$285,000 grant to make the move. So when I spoke with him, he was concerned – and frankly, angry – about some of the things that he was reading in the paper. Now I have been very cautious, very circumspect, about talking about this because the moment when I and the owner of the building became aware that this was happening and we couldn't do anything about it, he shifted gears and has been searching for a new occupant to that same premises. There are some very serious deliberations going on now. We may have something to announce sooner than later. However, for me to respond to some of the things that are being thrown around, I think would serve a disservice to the City. And all I can say is stay tuned. There may be some interesting developments there. But I have learned after thirty-six years as an attorney that when things become difficult the last thing you do is panic or rend your garments. You buckle down and find other ways to resolve the issue.

This other thing is very troubling to me. I don't think that the issue with regard to obtaining tax information and putting it out, whether the numbers agree with what's in the public record or don't agree with what's in the public record, matter. The issue here is that an individual with the City went to the Finance Department and obtained confidential tax information that the person had no right to obtain. Whether it's accurate, whether it's agreed to from another source, is irrelevant. What's even more troubling is that this was the second attempt. After the first attempt the individual was informed that he cannot have access to that confidential information, and so he went around the Finance Director and requested it from a different individual, a second time. That's what is troubling.

With regard to this last matter.....oh, I've been trying to avoid talking about this, but unfortunately I'm going to have to. A few of the group opposed to the rezoning of the former John Glenn site last November have asked repeatedly about a Gazette quote, that residents who don't understand the rezoning process will likely make false assumptions. Unfortunately it keeps coming up. It came up again this evening. As I said, I am now forced to have to respond. This question keeps coming up despite the admission by another resident who spoke at a prior meeting with Council who said "They don't have maybe a total understanding of how government works." Fair enough. At another meeting a different resident asked whether some City Officials were "investors" in the proposed assisted living facility. It was also told repeatedly that that would be impossible since any such hypothetical investor could not participate in the decision to place the rezoning measure on the ballot.

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Mayor Dell'Aquila (continued):

I had hoped that that would be the end of the discussion. Unfortunately, I now have to go farther. These and other statements indicate less than a full understanding of the rezoning process, but there were some other statements that were even more disturbing on an entirely different level. These included whether Council had considered who would be living in the property – who would be working at the proposed facility – whether Medicaid patients would be accepted there – or whether a bus line would be created on East Dartmoor to serve the facility. It's entirely fair to oppose a measure on principle, and to disagree with its passage on principle. However, it is never proper to consider out-of-bounds questions like these in deciding whether the rezoning proposal should go before the voters. I know that every official in this room found these questions troubling and offensive. Now some in this group have been requesting a meeting to rehash the rezoning process, while one of them is concurrently involved in legal proceedings against the City. Our attorneys advise against any such extra legal meeting under these circumstances, and so they will not occur. However, for those who may genuinely be interested in an overview of the rezoning process, the City Planning Commission has prepared a flow chart with advice from the Law Department which has been posted on the City's website – or will be, it is not yet. I hope that this is the last that I have to speak on this subject. I suspect it won't be, but I hope the message is delivered.

Thank you, Madam President.

Council President Ernst thanked Mayor Dell'Aquila for his comments.

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

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The February 9, 2015 Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Michele K. Ernst, President of Council

Attest: _____
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER
 SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2015

Here are the reasons the Ohio Department of Wildlife doesn't control the deer population better: Hunters like to shoot deer, and hunting licenses finance the department.

A plan to control deer — and the wildlife division

GENE KREBS

Various mayors in Cuyaboga County are responding to concerns raised by their constituents about the numbers of deer roaming their streets and backyards, but without understanding a little history, their opponents will simply outwait them. After all, their opponents do a lot of hunting, and hunting teaches patience and how to play the long game.

Years ago, I was attending a Bob Dole for president rally at the atrium of the Ohio State house; and standing next to Bob Teeter, who had been director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources under Gov. Jim Rhodes several decades before. After we

both acknowledged our party was going to get beaten badly with this fellow at the top of the ticket, I inquired how Bob had managed the Division of Wildlife when running ODNR. He just laughed and said, "I never could corral those cowboys" and I nodded sadly in agreement.

I have known the current director of ODNR for 15 years, and while I like him, I know he can't manage the Division of Wildlife, either. His predecessor under Gov. Ted Strickland is a close personal friend, and he, too, couldn't bring DOW to heel. Heavens, I have known the current head of DOW for decades, and while competent in most matters, this is also above his pay grade.

The reason is structural; DOW

is funded primarily by license and permit fees, so the agency's personnel do not want population numbers of deer to reflect that which would naturally occur. In nature, wildlife populations have peaks and valleys, as we were all taught in high school biology classes, with the charts showing how lynx and rabbit populations are linked, but with a time lag. Spikes and collapses of populations of animals that generate money are a nightmare for the agency, so it has an institutional bias to keep numbers unnaturally high; no manager wants to keep cutting staff and then hiring back.

How to solve this? There are two steps.

The first is to stop funding DOW through fees, fines and

permits. The second is creating a natural check and balance on the agency's lack of professionalism in setting numbers of deer in Ohio.

Before I was elected to an open Ohio House seat back in 1999, my most significant primary opponent and his campaign manager were involved in a horrific deer-car crash, killing the manager, the well-respected mayor of Oxford. Two weeks earlier, at almost the same spot, another deer-car crash had claimed the life of another community leader. Those holes are sufficient in those families and communities.

Every year in Ohio, eight to nine people die in deer-car collisions. This is immoral. Pleasing hunters and bureaucrats should

never take precedence over the lives of human beings.

The way to create a proper check on the numbers is that when a deer causes the death of a person, the next year, there are no limits on the number of deer all permits are free. This will help the situation in that county, but also in the neighboring counties, as any reduction in the herd will allow all the deer to equalize populations across the borders.

The death of a man, woman or child in a collision with a deer is something that a civilized society simply should not tolerate. This issue of deer doing damage and causing death and destruction has been going on in Ohio for 40 years, with a state

agency running amok. Whenever threatened, the Division of Wildlife will stir up its base of hunter clubs and attempt to defy the needs of the larger population. Taking this issue on would require political courage against an agency with a long history of soft corruption.

The suburban mayors of Northeast Ohio are looking for a solution. They should not be thinking narrowly, but rather looking at root causes and, most importantly, looking downstate for allies on this issue.

It has taken me 20 years to come up with a solution, but this one might work.

Krebs is a former Republican member of the Ohio House.

Traffic clogs are sure to follow closing of Inner Belt's Prospect Avenue ramps

THOMAS BIER

The saga of the Ohio Department of Transportation's reconstruction of Interstate 90 through downtown Cleveland continues. Recently the 11-year battle over the Carnegie Avenue exit ramp (which ODOT intended to close) ended when Midtown and Campus District leaders endorsed a redesigned access to Carnegie.

That leaves the Prospect Avenue ramps, which ODOT has maintained from the get-go must

All one has to do is watch traffic at Chester and East 30th during evening rush hour to know that the consultants' report showing serious congestion

million reconstruction of Euclid, which was to shorten travel time on Healthline's buses between downtown and University Circle.

Then there's the visual impact. ODOT's plan would further cleave downtown from the Inner East Side. A widened trench plus the connectors would double the overall width to include 14 lanes, six in the trench; two for each connector and two for each Chester ramp.

And last, but not least, the consultants' study of the plan's economic impact found that em-

Hiking the taxes on tobacco products improves public's health, bottom line

TERRY ALLAN AND DR. STANTON GERSON

Gov. John Kasich's release of the state budget represents a golden opportunity to gain back lost ground in our public health battle to reduce the devastating economic and health effects of tobacco in Ohio. Recent data from the American Lung Association and the University of Illinois at Chicago research reaffirm that tobacco taxes improve health and the bottom line for Ohioans. A proposed \$1-per-pack increase on cigarettes, along

