

Shaker Heights City Council

Regular Meeting

March 24, 2008

Present: Mayor Earl Leiken; Council members Al Foster, James Brady, Nancy Moore, Earl Williams, Lynn Ruffner, Brian Gleisser

Absent: Rob Zimmerman

Also present: Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Margaret Cannon, director of law; John Lehman, director of finance; Scott Lee, acting chief of police; Mary Gavin-Wagner, director of human resources

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. Minutes from the 2/25/08 meeting were approved.

Appointment to Civil Service Commission: Council voted to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Sandra Kiely to the Civil Service Commission to fill an unexpired six-year term ending on Dec. 31, 2011.

Booster Seats for Children: Council voted in favor of a resolution supporting the passage of House Bill 320 requiring booster seats for children too small for safety belts.

Fair Housing Month: Council voted in favor of proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in Shaker Heights and commemorating the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act. Ms. Ruffner said that there are several programs and workshops scheduled to celebrate the anniversary. The library will be creating a Fair Housing reading list as well.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Pension Changes; No Cost to City: Council voted to approve changes that will allow Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) pre-tax deductions for part-time employees. This change makes part-time employees consistent with full-time employees. Council also authorized a plan allowing all regular full-time and regular part-time employees to purchase additional service credit by tax-deferred payroll deductions; the same plan was authorized for the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund. These changes will incur no cost to the city, according to Ms. Gavin-Wagner and will be implemented in the March 30, 2008, pay period.

Appropriations Updates: Council approved amending the 2008 annual appropriation measure to adjust non-General Fund budgets and to correct a clerical error. Mr. Lehman said these were "housekeeping" items. The clerical error put \$8,212 in the Municipal Court section, but it actually belongs in "Other City Activities." Also, adjusted numbers from the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission are reflected in the changes.

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

Executive Session to discuss imminent or pending litigation and personnel

Council reconvened at 8:27 p.m. to approve a settlement offer for \$150,000 to settle Rodney Irvin v. City of Shaker Heights. Ms. Cannon explained that the case relates to Mr. Irvin's claim that his civil rights were violated during his arrest and imprisonment and that he was discriminated against on the basis of race. Mr. Irvin's original demand was \$1.5 million, but he had agreed to the settlement amount. Ms. Cannon said that even though this is a large amount, legal costs associated with a trial would be significantly higher.

Julianna Johnston Senturia, 921-5413