

**MINUTES
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF
LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12650 DETROIT AVENUE
JUNE 20, 2016
7:30 P.M.**

Regular Meeting of the Lakewood City Council called to order at 7:36 PM by Council President O'Leary.

Present: David Anderson, Thomas R. Bullock III, John Litten, Cindy Marx, Ryan Nowlin, Samuel T. O'Leary, Daniel J. O'Malley .

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

Also Present: Mayor Summers, Law Director Butler, Finance Director Pae, Public Works Director Beno, Police Chief Malley, Human Services Director Gelsomino, Assistant Director for Planning & Development Sylvester, approximately 25 members of the public, members of the media.

Reading & disposal of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held June 6, 2016. Motion by Mr. O'Leary. Seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the minutes without the necessity of a reading.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

******OLD BUSINESS******

1. Committee of the Whole Report regarding June 13 & June 20, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meetings. Mr. O'Leary; Chair. (To Be Provided)

On our Committee of the Whole meeting June 13th we discussed extensively proposed ordinance 1-16, which is before us tonight. We discussed in detail various changes that had been made throughout the drafting process including the most recent changes, things like the number of members of the Human Right Commission as well as a couple of substantive changes to the remedies provision and a reduction in the number of employees that would be required before an employer is subjected to the ordinance from 5 to 4. Other changes were reflected and we heard from Director Butler a detailed accounting of those changes this

evening. On June 13th our Committee of the Whole did recommend adoption by full Council. Earlier this evening we again recommended adoption following a clarification revision of the substitute version of the ordinance that is before us tonight.

We also heard this evening an update on Council's technology. Our chamber progress is moving forward. We should have the audio/visual online by the last meeting in July. If not then, by our meeting when we return from August recess. In the meantime, our audio/visual hopefully continues to work for a few more weeks. In addition to that we had a brief discussion of proposed resolution 8871-16 regarding the planning of the foundation task force and found out that we can expect to meet with Debra Reid of Thompson Hine for additional counsel and advice on that sometime in early to mid-July. That was the business conducted by Committee of the Whole this evening. I move that that report be received and filed.

Motion by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file the oral report.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

2. **ORDINANCE 1-16** - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law, to amend certain provisions of Chapter 516, Chapter 537, Chapter 142, Chapter 501, and Chapter 1327 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood, Ohio, to ensure that all persons within the City have equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations, and education. (**PLEASE SUBSTITUTE** FOR ORDINANCE 1-16 (1ST READING & REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/19/16, 2ND READING 2/1/16) (Pg. 5)

Comments were made:

State Representative Nicki Antonio

Representative Antonio expressed strong support for the ordinance and pride in council for its work to bring it forward. She explained why the ordinance effects the entire community and how it will make Lakewood stand out as an example to other Ohio communities. She praised council for being pro-active against hate and bigotry and remarked that the ordinance represents the forward-thinking collaboration at the heart of the community.

Patty Ryan, President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Ryan read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors in support of Ordinance 1-16. The letter is on page 42 of the docket.

Alana Jochum Executive Director of Equality Ohio & Rob Rivera of Stonewall Democrats

Ms. Jochum remarked that Ohio is one of 28 states that do not offer protections to the LGBT population, so it is up to municipalities to do so. She described the real repercussions of discrimination. She stated that Lakewood would become the 15th City in Ohio to enact protections. She praised Lakewood's welcoming environment and remarked that the legislation makes the environment a legal reality.

Mr. Rivera explained the mission of Stonewall Democrats. He expressed pride in councilmembers for their work on the ordinance. He remarked on the importance of council action and stated that Ordinance 1-16 matters to all residents and sends a strong message about Lakewood.

Lauren Dockery

Ms. Dockery expressed support for Ord 1-16, stating that city leaders must create policies that protect all residents. She said that while Lakewood has a reputation for equality that the time has come for legal equality. She praised the ordinance as offering assurances and protections.

Becky Cross & Taylor Bus

All people should have the opportunity to earn a living. No one should live in fear of being legally fired. Support the ord. Proud to call LW home.

Randy Webb, President of Beacon Gasket & Seals

Proud of lesbian daughter. Have lost family church community and friends out of support. LW has the ability to make LGBT lives more fair. Business supports this.

Vania Sherepita

Ms. Sherepita spoke about her experience as a transgender woman living in Lakewood. She says that she feels supported by the community and does not experience aggression. She is grateful that the City is considering expanding protections to the LGBTQ community. She asked that the ordinance be passed.

Ryan Aroney

LGBT issues are important to the entire community. Updates would give equal footing and chance to live and work. Want the same opportunities he has for neighbors and residents.

Jim & Charlie Cunningham

Mr. & Mrs. Cunningham spoke about Charlie's experience as a transgender man. Charlie reported facing intimidating behavior, stares, and glares. He was shocked to learn that he was not protected against discrimination by local laws. Jim asked that Council take a stand and offer protections.

Shannon & Michael Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Miller remarked on the challenges of parenting a transgender child. She asked Council for support in protecting both of her children by passing the ordinance.

Pam Wetula – 11813 Clifton

Ms. Wetula spoke in support of Ordinance 1-16. She remarked on discrimination that she has seen and heard against the LGBT community now and in the past. She said that while it is unfortunate that equality must be legislated that she agrees with the ordinance and believes it will help.

Councilmember Marx thanked members of the public for their testimony. She expressed pride in Lakewood and Council for taking a stand on this issue. She remarked on her passion for this issue. She read a quote from Bobby Kennedy.

Councilmember O'Malley thanked the supporters of the ordinance. He discussed times in the past when council made decisions that have made LGBT residents feel unwelcome. He cited examples of same-sex partners of City employees being denied benefits and a controversy over a pride flag being flown. He noted that these decisions may not have represented the public sentiment since the majority of Lakewood voted against the same-sex marriage ban. He expressed pride in the progress that has since been made. He acknowledged the work of Representative Antonio, Law Director Butler, former Councilmember Monique Smith, and Mayor Summers. He remarked on the merits of the ordinance and spoke about the importance of equal access to housing as part of the American dream. He remarked on the protections the ordinance extends to transgender people. He noted that Lakewood is #2 in its number of same-sex households in Ohio. He announced, "Let freedom ring for all."

Councilmember Anderson remarked that the ordinance could have a regional impact as well as a local impact because a business's locations outside of Lakewood may be impacted by it. He noted the courage of the residents who testified in support. He expressed hope that individuals will continue to engage in challenging conversations that advance the community. He expressed support for the ordinance.

Councilmember Bullock acknowledged those who worked on the ordinance from council, the administration, and the private sector. He noted the unprecedented nature of the Human Right Commission created by the ordinance. He outlined positive steps the City has taken to promote equality that have led up to this ordinance.

Councilmember O’Leary remarked on the process that has taken place to arrive at this final version of the ordinance. He thanked everyone who has worked on it including Alana Jochum from Equality Ohio. He expressed appreciation to those who testified.

Councilmember Marx thanked Steve Bennet and Rob Rivera for alerting her that such protections do not exist in the Code.

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Motion by Mr. O'Malley, seconded by Mr. O'Leary to substitute.

Yeas: Anderson, Bullock, Litten, Marx, Nowlin, O'Leary, O'Malley

Nays: None

Motion adopted. Ordinance 1-16 substituted.

Motion by Mr. O'Malley, seconded by Mr. O'Leary, to adopt Ordinance 1-16 as substituted.

Yeas: Anderson, Bullock, Litten, Marx, Nowlin, O'Leary, O'Malley

Nays: None

Motion adopted. Ordinance 1-16 adopted as substituted.

Finance Committee Report regarding Ordinances No. 29-16, Resolution Nos. 8871-16, 8872-16, 8873-16, 8874-16, & 8875-16. Mr. Bullock; Chair. (Pg. 26)

Your Finance Committee met Monday, June 13, 2016. All members were present as well as all members of council. We considered Ordinance 29-16 authorizing the transfer and advance of certain funds. We unanimously recommended that ordinance for adoption on its third reading.

Next was Resolution 8872-16, a three-year agreement with AT&T Corp. for the sale and purchase of citywide Centrex telephone service. We recommended adoption of that as well pending further clarification due to questions about what is being sold.

Third, 8873-16 approving the tax budget for the City of Lakewood for 2017 and authorizing the filing of the same to the county fiscal office. This is annual legislation that ends our fiscal year. We unanimously recommended adoption of the resolution.

8874-16 was also unanimously recommended for adoption. This is also one of the legislative instruments that begins the fiscal year and enables the city to successfully function in our tax collection services with the county.

Finally, 8875-16 to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer. This would establish and reaffirm at the current tax rates which are the same rates they have been for many years our property tax collections for the City portion. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of that as well.

Finally, we began a multi-meeting discussion of Council's deliberations establishing budget priorities of our own and reflecting those in varying degrees in our forthcoming 2017 budget. We're at the early stages but we're having that discussion so that we may give ourselves ample time to do a good job.

I move to receive and file this committee report as it appears on the docket.

Motion by Mr. Bullock, seconded by Mr. O’Leary, to receive and file the report.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

3. **ORDINANCE NO. 29-16** - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the transfer and advance of certain funds. (1ST READING & REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/16/16, 2ND READING 6/6/16) (Pg. 28)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Bullock, to adopt Ordinance 29-16.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 8872-16** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a three-year agreement with AT&T Corp. for the sale and purchase of citywide Centrex telephone service; authorizing the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 in order to effectuate the intent of the agreement; and exempting the contract from competitive bidding pursuant to L.C.O. § 111.04(a)(10). (REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE 6/6/16) (Pg. 30)

Director Butler clarified that the agreement is for the sale by AT&T and purchase by the City for the Centrex system. The City is not selling anything. He said that this is similar to other utilities where AT&T is the sole and exclusive provider of services which is why there will be no bidding.

Motion by Mr. Bullock, seconded by Mr. O’Leary, to adopt Resolution 8872-16.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 8873-16** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it received the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in forcer after the earliest period allowed by law, approving the Tax Budget of the City of Lakewood, Ohio for the year 2017, and authorizing the filing of same with Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer. (REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE 6/6/16)(Pg. 32)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adopt Resolution 8873-16.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 8874-16** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law requesting the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to draw and the Cuyahoga County Treasurer to pay to the city of Lakewood Director of Finance and advance of all real, personal property and estate taxes and special assessments collected in the year 2017 in such amounts as may be requested and available. (REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE 6/6/16) (Pg. 33)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adopt Resolution 8874-16.
Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 8875-16** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer. (REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE 6/6/16)(Pg. 35)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adopt Resolution 8875-16.
Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

8. **ORDINANCE NO. 30-16** – AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing and directing the Director of Planning and Development to market for sale the real property located at 1458 Belle Avenue (PPN 314-04-045), 1462 Belle Avenue (PPN 314-04-044), 1466 Belle Avenue (PPN 314-04-043), 1472 Belle Avenue (PPN 314-04-042), 1476 Belle Avenue (PPN 314-04-041) 1451 St. Charles Avenue (PPN 314-04-029) 1457 St. Charles Avenue (PPN 314-04-030), 1461 St. Charles Avenue (PPN 314-04-031), 1471 St. Charles Avenue (PPN 314-04-033), and 1477 St. Charles Avenue (PPN 314-04-034), pursuant to Section 155.07 of the Codified Ordinances. (1st READING & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 5/16/16, 2ND READING & RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION 6/6/16) (Pg. 37)

Councilmember Bullock suggested that the references to the Director of Planning and Development be removed and replaced with Director of Public Safety. He

requested that Council be included in a conversation prior to any agreement so that council can understand the administration's strategies.

City Planner Sylvester remarked that he would be happy to include Council in discussions. He remarked that the matter is timely and that it is the department's intent to stagger the listings – to not list them all at once.

It was clarified that city inspectors have inspected the homes and produced correction notices. Buyers will sign an affidavit, committing to resolve the code issues.

Councilmember Marx asked that Council be notified when the homes are listed.

It was clarified that current tenants will be offered the first opportunity to buy. The homes will be priced at fair market value determined by a broker.

Motion by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adopt Ordinance 30-16.
Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

9. **ORDINANCE NO. 31-16** – AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, to approve the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances to provide for the publication of such new matter. (1ST READING 6/6/16) (Pg. 39)

Motion by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to defer Ordinance 31-16.
Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

10. Dr. Judith Welsh presentation to Council regarding Lakewood Emergency Department. (Councilmember Marx Communication of May 16, 2016) (To Be Provided)

Dr. Welsh introduced herself and her credentials. She is a board certified emergency physician who directs the Lakewood Emergency Department. She discussed what the Emergency Department is capable of treating. She stated that the only change is that inpatient beds are a few miles away now. She stated that the Emergency Department performs critical care procedures, not just strains and sprains. She discussed the differences between express care facilities, urgent care facilities, and the emergency department. She listed the following issues that the emergency department can treat:

- Evaluating and stabilizing heart attacks and strokes

- Brain bleeding
- Major trauma
- Overdoses
- Severe mental health problems

She explained that patients can be transferred to the hospital of their choice either within or outside of the Cleveland Clinic system.

She said that if a child were severely injured they would be treated the same as before the hospital closed – that is, stabilized and transferred to a trauma center.

She said that the physicians who staff the emergency department are certified in emergency medicine and are the same as those who work at other Cleveland Clinic facilities. She spoke more about the credentials of the physicians and other medical staff who staff the department. She spoke more about the services the department offers. She described the process a patient will go through when checking into the department. She noted measures of success at the department:

- patient satisfaction scores are very high
- patient volumes are 10% higher original projections
- the time it takes a patient to see a doctor is usually less than 12 minutes

She concluded that the emergency department is effectively caring for citizens.

Councilmember O’Leary thanked Dr. Welsh for her community outreach to help residents understand what services are available.

In response to a councilmember’s question, Dr. Welsh elaborated on how patient satisfaction is measured.

Dr. Welsh explained how the department is staffed. There is a core group of 6 full-time doctors. Doctors from the main campus and Lutheran Hospital fill in for vacations and sick days. She said that this was the same arrangement under the old Lakewood Hospital emergency department.

Councilmember Bullock asked if there are any gaps in coverage now that were not present before.

Dr. Welsh responded that there will always be a doctor at the emergency department no matter what. She discussed a scenario where a victim of a gunshot was stabilized at the ER before being transferred. She described how the medical team saved his life. She recommended that people call 9-1-1 if having chest pain or can’t move an arm or leg. Outstanding paramedics will get the patient to the most appropriate facility.

In response to a question by a councilmember, Dr. Welsh elaborated on the difference between an emergency department and an urgent care. She said that an urgent care has more limited resources and the doctors there have a different focus and training. She said that an urgent care cannot do a spinal tap, intubation, or place a central line. She said the emergency department can provide care for minor illnesses and injuries but that that is not the extent of its services. She described the seamless process of transferring patients to inpatient beds when needed.

Councilmember O’Leary thanked Dr. Welsh for her presentation and directed the public to a hand out describing the services at the emergency department.

Dr. Kilroy – 15431 Edgewater

Dr. Kilroy asked a number of questions about the new emergency department including:

- How does EMS decide where to take the patient?
- How do we keep community doctors involved in patient care while the patient is hospitalized?
- How do community doctors keep track of what’s going on in the emergency department?
- Where is the public input and transparency?

He described a scenario where a patient of his was taken to the Lakewood ER and he was never contacted about it. He questioned why the patient was not taken directly to Fairview.

Chief Gilman responded, describing how EMS decides where a patient is taken. Generally, online protocols are followed but EMS may need to call a doctor for additional medical direction. EMS tries to honor a patient’s choice first but will take a patient to Lakewood if he/she needs to be stabilized immediately.

Councilmember Bullock remarked that there will be an opportunity for public input upon the opening of the Family Health Center. He expressed confidence that there is a way to resolve the physician communication questions.

Brian Essi – 15306 Edgewater

Mr. Essi remarked that the City has no control over what happens at the emergency department and has no guarantee that the department will continue to function in the future. He criticized the amount of time that Dr. Welsh was given to speak.

Ed Graham – 1286 Chase

Mr. Graham argued that the 17 minute transport time to an inpatient bed represents a significant gap in coverage. He described the experience of an acquaintance who had to pay \$700 to be transferred to an inpatient bed from the Lakewood ER.

Chief Gilman responded. He stated that there is no gap in coverage because patients are being cared for by EMS during transport. He said that EMS and doctors are careful to document the medical necessity of the transport and that Medicare and Medicaid will cover the costs if the transport is for a medical necessity.

Judy Gillespie – 23003 Chandler’s Lane Olmsted Falls

Ms. Gillespie defined and discussed the term “shell game.” She said that Cleveland Clinic is conducting a shell game and that the City is a partner in it. She complained that going to the Lakewood ER used to be a one-step process and that now it is two steps. She criticized the content of the presentation that Dr. Welsh and Chief Gilman are delivering to different community groups. She questioned why some of the talk are not open to the public.

LWH used to be a one-stop shop and now it’s a 2-step process. Insurance costs of transfer.

Chief Gilman responded that the talks have been requested by residents. He clarified the process that a patient would go through if he/she needed to be admitted. In response to Ms. Gillespie's remarks, he clarified that EMS is prohibited from transporting a patient to an urgent care because urgent cares have limited services. He remarked that Metro has recently opened two free-standing ERs.

Pam Wetula – 11813 Clifton

Ms. Wetula remarked that the master agreement does not provide the same level of emergency care that the hospital provided. She read a facebook post from someone who discussed their experience at the ER. She referenced a patient who died after receiving care at the ER.

Chief Gilman provided clarification about the patient who died. He said that federal law prevents him from sharing further details but that Save Lakewood members do not have the correct facts about the case.

In response to the criticism about private presentations in the community by Dr. Welsh Councilmember O'Leary pointed out that condos are people's homes and that it is unreasonable to expect that they be opened up to everyone for a private presentation.

Motion by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

*****NEW BUSINESS*****

11. Communication from Council President O'Leary regarding Chamber of Commerce Support of Human Rights Legislation. (Pg. 41)

Motion by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file the communication.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

12. Communication from Council President O'Leary regarding Lakewood Reads. (Pg. 43)

Mr. Peter Petto, a LHS teacher addressed council. He thanked council for its support of the Lakewood Reads program. He expressed hope that the book will engage public discourse in a serious issue. He provided copies of the book to council. He received the resolution.

Councilmember Anderson encouraged councilmembers to donate their books to the library after reading them.

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file the communication.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

13. **RESOLUTION NO. 8877-16** – A RESOLUTION to recognize “Lakewood Reads” as a City-wide event and to encourage participation by all Lakewood residents this summer. (Pg. 44)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adopt Resolution 8877-16.
Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

14. Communication from Council President O’Leary regarding Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Appointment. (Pg. 45)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file the communication.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

15. Communication from Councilmember Litten regarding Swimming Pools. (Pg. 46)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to receive and file the communication.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

16. **ORDINANCE NO. – 32-16** - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, amending Section 1722.01, Location of Family Pools, Section 1121.10, Additional Accessory Structure Regulations, and Section 1123.10, Additional Accessory Structure Regulations, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood, in order to provide for the regulation of the location of family swimming pools within the Zoning Code. (Pg. 47)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to refer to the Planning Commission and the Rules and Ordinances Committee.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

17. Liquor Permit Application for D5 and D6 transfers to SALT, 17621, 17623 and 17625 Detroit Avenue. (Pg. 51)

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to file without objection.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

18. Liquor Permit Application FOR A New D1 classification to Namaste India Garden; 14412 Detroit. (Pg. 5)

Motion by Mr. Litten, seconded by Mr. O’Leary, to defer action on this item.

Motion adopted. All members voting yea.

****PUBLIC COMMENT****

Brian Essi -15306 Edgewater

Mr. Essi remarked on the Edgewater Sewer project.

He discussed the campaign prior to Election Day 2015. He took issue with the nature of the political materials he received regarding the hospital ballot issue, saying that they contained lies. He objected to how the campaign was financed. He warned that the upcoming campaign should be more honest.

Dr. Kilroy – 15431 Edgewater

Dr. Kilroy discussed the history of the freestanding ER in the region. He said that the City is obligated to find a way to ensure that the new ER will meet the City’s goals and not Cleveland Clinic’s goals. He took issue with the fact that Cleveland Clinic controls all the data, and has control over what services will be provided. He urged for greater quality control. He complained that the Clinic is disconnecting patients from their primary care doctors. He questioned who will do follow up with patients.

Dorothy Abel – 2180 Alger

Ms. Abel charged that Lakewood Hospital is closed because of improper bidding and lies. She urged council to repeal the deal and bring back inpatient beds. She bemoaned the loss of jobs and income tax revenue. She declared that Save Lakewood Hospital members still believe in fighting.

Coletta Graham – 1286 Chase

Mrs. Graham criticized Mayor Summers for participating in the Republican National Convention welcome activities. She asked questions about the homes on Belle Ave. that will go on the market.

Councilmember O’Leary explained that the homes were purchased decades ago by Lakewood Hospital Association in anticipation of potential hospital expansion. When the ownership was transferred to the City has benefitted from the rental revenue. He expressed pride in Mayor Summers’s participation in the RNC welcome committee.

Mayor Summers remarked on his involvement with the RNC welcome committee. He stated that the job of the welcome committee is to welcome visitors and not to focus on partisan politics.

Director Butler and Councilmember Bullock made clarifying remarks about the homes on Belle Ave.

Leslie Bass – 12506 Edgewater Dr

Ms. Bass stated that she is not convinced that what is being offered at the ER is good enough and that nothing will replace the hospital. She stated that Lakewood has earned the right to hospital.

Joanne Smallwood – 1248 West Clifton

Ms. Smallwood reported on a positive experience that she had at the Lakewood ER in March for a heart condition. She stated that the doctors were knowledgeable and thorough and that her expectations were exceeded.

Joanne Gerhart – 16722 Clifton

Ms. Gerhart criticized flyer provided by Cleveland Clinic, pointing out areas that were unclear.

Councilmember Marx provided clarification.

Kevin Young – 1598 Elbur Ave

Mr. Young cautioned everyone to take the words of Dr. Welsh with a grain of salt. He stated that there are alarming shortcomings of having a free-standing ER that will cause lives to be lost.

Heather Voyer – 103 River Rock Way

Ms. Voyer relayed the experience she had accompanying her mother to the Lakewood ER. She praised the personalized care that her mother received. She wanted council to know that the ER is helping people.

****ANNOUNCEMENTS****

Councilmember O’Malley announced that Pier W was rated a top romantic restaurant by Travel & Leisure Magazine

Mayor Summers announced that the solstice steps event will be tomorrow at Lakewood Park.

Motion by Mr. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Anderson to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Approved:_____

CLERK

PRESIDENT