



Norwood City Council Council Chambers January 12, 2016

A) CALL TO ORDER

The Council for the City of Norwood met in regular session on the above date with Mrs. Donna Laake presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

B) PRAYER

C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Laake requested a moment of silence for Margaret Wehmeyer.

D) ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members answered present: Mr. Bonsall, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Stickley, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Hanrahan, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Mumper. Mrs. Laake welcomed the new members.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add the Auditor's Report under Administration Reports; remove the communication from Keith Moore, Law Director; add the communication regarding the appointment of a representative to the OKI Regional Board; add the communication from the Tax Department; add the communication from Chris Brown, Law Director. All members present voted, "Yes".

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Bonsall noted that Ms. Allan's last name was misspelled in the minutes from December 8th and December 22nd. On a motion from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to accept the minutes of December 8, 2015, December 22, 2015, December 28, 2015, and January 1, 2016, as if read. All present voted, "Yes".

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to address council on agenda items.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were no committee reports.

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE

There were no second/third readings.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICE-SAFETY OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TA-TECH PLUS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE CITY OF NORWOOD: OFFICE SERVICES TO THE CLERK OF COUNCIL, OFFICE SERVICES TO THE CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION AND TIER 1-IT TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes".

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes".

2) ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 759.06 IMPROPER SOLICITATION.

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Sanker asked Mr. Moore, Norwood Law Director, to explain how this ordinance came about and how it will hold up, as compared to similar legislation in other communities. Mr. Moore stated that this ordinance was drafted because of a ride-along that Mr. Garry, Assistant Law Director, completed with the Norwood Police in December. The Norwood Police discussed the issue of panhandlers. This ordinance was modeled after the laws in place in the City of Cincinnati; it covers panhandlers who are lying and who are

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harassing residents for money. This ordinance does not cover general loitering or threats. All present voted, "Yes".

3) ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 137.01 ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Blair asked Mr. Moore about conflicts of interest arising with the Assistant Law Director. Mr. Moore stated that the Assistant Law Director is the only position which precludes an individual from working outside the City of Norwood while employed by the City of Norwood; he also stated that there is a high sensitivity and a clear understanding of avoiding conflicts of interest. Mr. Moore requested for all three readings of the ordinance. Mr. Moore added there are several clients Mr. Garry would like to finish up, instead of passing them on to someone else to handle. Mr. Bonsall expressed his support of the amendment. Mr. Clark asked how a conflict of interest would be handled. Mr. Moore stated he would handle it or it would be handled by outside counsel. Mr. Sanker and Mr. Mumper withdrew their motions to have the first reading.

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes".

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Stickley, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes".

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

1) A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF THE TAXES PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 321.34 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the resolution. Mr. Sanker asked for Mr. Stith, Norwood Auditor, to explain how this resolution benefits the City of Norwood. Mr. Stith stated that Hamilton County holds on to our tax money; they pay the city in May and September. This resolution allows us to ask for the money as it comes in; we have requested early payments for several years. The money is needed to help pay toward the \$1.2 million bond payment due at the end of March. Mrs. Stickley asked if this request is for the May and September disbursement. Mr. Stith stated a letter is sent in March requesting everything for May, and another letter will have to be sent later requesting the second half of the payment. All present voted, "Yes".

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to pass the resolution. All present voted, "Yes".

Mrs. Laake acknowledged Adam Helwig, who is with Boy Scout Troop 598 in Evendale; he is attending the meeting to earn his communications badge.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1) Auditor's Report Re: Year End Report

Mr. Stith welcomed the newly elected members of Council. He stated that the year end report for 2015 is complete; the report will be available to members of council and will be posted on the Auditor's website. The year was ended with a negative balance; \$171,379 was spent more than what was brought in for 2015. November and December revenue was less than expected. Longevity-pay wasn't paid out to employees until a week before Christmas. Total overtime expenditures cost the city about \$1.2 million. 2016 projections are based on 10 years performance. The city will have to operate on a cash-basis form of accounting; spending money and paying for things as the money comes in. Meetings will need to take place to address what needs to be paid; payroll, healthcare, bond payments, etc. There is a \$1.5 million bond debt from 1996 to be paid partially in March and partially in April; the debt was refinanced several times. Bond debt will be paid off in 2022; \$1.5 million to be paid in 2016, pay the interest on the outstanding notes, and the bond debt payment will then be about \$300,000 a year, which will be the lowest in the bond cycle. In 2017, the city can start using the extra \$1.5 million to get caught up on the Police & Fire Pension, the retirees healthcare, and any other bills that are 60-90 days past due. It will be a tough financial year and will take the involvement of the Finance Committee, the Administration, and all of Council. The C-9 Trust is owed \$347,090 in back-payments. Mr. Stith advised the current council to discuss appointing a liaison to replace Mr. Whittington to communicate with the C-9 Trust members. Mr. Stith discussed issues with the Recreation Department and some of their employees not receiving a paycheck in December. Recreation is managed as a separate fund; Recreation has its own revenue and is not part of the general fund. Recreation ran out

of revenue in the end of November; the Safety-Service Director informed the Recreation that additional funds need to be generated in order for employees to be paid through the end of the year. Recreation employees who submitted timesheets to the Auditors Office were paid; anyone not paid on January 4th was due to the fact that a time sheet was not submitted. The reason Recreation employees were not initially paid was due to the fact there was no money in the fund. Mr. Stith stated that multiple parents called his office saying they were told paychecks were being withheld because of a personal vendetta the Auditor had against the Recreation department-head. Mr. Stith stated this is not true; and this type of behavior should not be tolerated in the city and is unprofessional. Mr. Stith is available to talk with anyone who has questions about how bills are paid; 2017 we will get caught up and 2018 we will be able to do things. 2016 has 27 payrolls in it; about \$450,000 more will come out of the general fund by the end of the year because of the extra payroll. Mr. Bonsall asked about the Recreation payroll. Mr. Stith stated the general fund subsidizes about \$50,000 to the Recreation, in addition to their revenue. The payroll payment in January came out of 2016 funds and Recreation may miss the last 4 payrolls again in the end of 2016.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- 1) Mary Barber Re: Passing of Margaret Wehmeyer

Ms. Wehmeyer was 91 years old and lived in the house that was built by her grandfather. She was the first female vice-president at her place of employment and was involved in many civic activities; she attended numerous council and committee meetings. Ms. Wehmeyer helped to establish the West Norwood Neighborhood Association and was instrumental in getting the original West Norwood Police Substation up and running. Ms. Wehmeyer was also involved with the civic group Citizens for a Better Norwood. Mrs. Barber feels that Ms. Wehmeyer “deserved a parade.” Mrs. Barber thanked Mrs. Laake for the moment of silence acknowledging Margaret Wehmeyer at the beginning of the meeting.

- 2) Pastor Sonny James Re: Community & It’s Time to Work Together

Mr. James thanks Mrs. Barber for speaking so highly of Ms. Wehmeyer. Mr. James then welcomed the new members of Council; he acknowledged a recent meeting with Mr. Blair. Mr. James spoke about the “On the Rough Side” program. He also spoke about his 13-point plan, “March for Peace” rallies, and shared his personal email address for anyone to contact him: pastorsonnyjames@gmail.com. Mr. James is going to rally some community members together to do a “Relay for Rec” to help raise funds for the Recreation Department. Mr. James acknowledged that he has heard back from Mr. Clark and Mr. Blair via email.

L) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

M) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bonsall asked to place the matter of establishing an ordinance to address the topic of establishing a minimum distance that automobiles must give when passing bicyclists, into Law and Ordinance Committee.

N) COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Letter from the Law Director Re: Assistant Law Director

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to receive and file the letter, place the matter into Finance Committee, and allow Mr. Moore to address council on this matter. Mr. Bonsall, Mrs. Stickley, Mrs. Hanrahan, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Mumper voted, “Yes.” Mr. Clark and Mr. Blair voted, “No.” By a vote of 5-2, the motion passed. Mr. Moore stated he will save his comments for the Finance Committee meeting.

- 2) Letter from the Mayor Re: Mayors Court Fines

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Mr. Mumper asked if the Clerk of Courts can only provide the totals or provide the report digitally, instead of copying the entire packet of paper to save money and paper. Mayor Williams will investigate the legality of not sending the entire packet. All members present voted, “Yes”.

- 3) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Norwood Board of Zoning Appeals (Dumont)

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, “Yes”.

- 4) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Board of Health (Newton)

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to approve the appointment of Mrs. Newton to the Norwood Board of Health. All members present voted, "Yes".

5) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Board of Health(Layne)

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to approve the appointment of Mr. Layne to the Norwood Board of Health. All members present voted, "Yes".

6) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Norwood Civil Service Commission(Brinkmeyer)

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mrs. Stickley, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, "Yes".

7) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Plumbing Board(Ferguson)

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Sanker, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, "Yes".

8) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Tree Board(Hanrahan)

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Sanker, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to approve the appointment of Mr. Hanrahan to the Norwood Tree Board. All members present voted, "Yes".

9) Letter from the Mayor Re: Appointment – Tree Board(Laake)

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to approve the appointment of Mrs. Laake to the Norwood Tree Board. All members present voted, "Yes".

10) Letter from OKI Re: Norwood OKI Board Representative

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to appoint Mr. Bonsall as Norwood's representative to the OKI Board. All members present voted, "Yes".

11) Letter from the Tax Department Re: Monthly Earnings Tax – December 2015

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, "Yes".

12) Letter from the Law Director Re: Law Director's Annual Report 2015

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, "Yes".

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

There were no absent members.

Q) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to adjourn. All present voted, "Yes".

Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council

Donna M. Laake
President of Council