



Council Chambers

February 9, 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

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.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add the Housing, Health, & Recreation Committee report, move the Bicyclist Ordinance to immediately follow Requests to Address Council on Agenda Items, and to add a communication from Mayor Williams regarding Executive Session. All members present voted, "Yes".

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion from Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting, as if read. All present voted, "Yes".

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Frank Henson, President of Queen City Bike, spoke in favor of the passage of the Bicyclist Ordinance. Queen City Bike works to make streets safer for bicyclists; three feet is an adequate safe distance for motorized vehicles to pass bicyclists. Mr. Henson stated this ordinance will work to make the streets safer for bicyclists and will protect bicyclists.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 331.03 OF THE NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES: OVERTAKING, 3 FOOT PASSING DISTANCE FROM BICYCLISTS; DRIVER'S DUTIES; AND AMENDING SECTION 313.09 DRIVER'S DUTIES UPON APPROACHING AMBIGUOUS OR NON-WORKING TRAFFIC SIGNAL.

Mrs. Hanrahan asked how this ordinance will be enforced and where the established penalties came from. Mrs. Hanrahan also stated similar legislation has already failed in the State of Ohio. Mr. Moore deferred the question about enforcement to the Police. With regard to penalties, it is a minor misdemeanor unless there were other traffic convictions in that year. Mr. Mumper asked Mayor Williams if he had any comments on the matter. Mayor Williams understands the intent of the ordinance but is not sure how enforceable this ordinance will be. One concern is if an accident does occur, does it add liability to someone driving a car who wasn't at fault? Mayor Williams agrees that Wasson Way will be a nice thing to have. Mayor Williams spoke to Mr. Bonsall prior to the meeting, who supports only having the first reading for additional discussion to pursue with Council. Mr. Bonsall stated that bicyclists will have to stay as far to the right as possible; bicyclists have responsibilities too. Mr. Bonsall added that the law in the State of Ohio didn't necessarily fail, it simply didn't make it all the way to the floor; it passed in committee unanimously. Mrs. Stickley asked about costs associated with passing ordinances. Mr. Moore confirmed that there are costs associated with publishing ordinances; they are currently published in the Cincinnati Enquirer. Mr. Moore also stated there is no way to predict how much revenue this ordinance would generate in fines. Mr. Mumper reminded this council that discussions took place regarding a similar issue with a previous Council addressing a three-foot distance from driveways; police do not walk around with tape measures.

On a motion from Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to hear the first reading of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."

Anne Housholder of Mills Avenue, spoke in opposition to the Solicitation Ordinance. Ms. Housholder works with Veterans Administration. She has concerns about the ability to identify a person who is lying about being a veteran. She feels there is a bias in this ordinance; who is or isn't what they are claiming to be? There is no way to verify.

Meredith Owensby of Mills Avenue, spoke in opposition to the Solicitation Ordinance. Ms. Owensby is the co-director of Lydia's House and urges council to vote against the ordinance. She stated that passing this ordinance would be further criminalization of the poor, which is the last thing they need; this ordinance is proposed at silencing the most vocal of the poor. Ms. Owensby asks council not to add further burdens that those in poverty already have to bear and to not pass the ordinance.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

- 1) Housing, Health, & Recreation Committee: February 4, 2016 Re: Fun Factory
On a motion from Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to accept the committee report. All present voted, "Yes".

I) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

- 1) ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 759.06 IMPROPER SOLICITATION.
On a motion from Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to hear the third reading of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
Mr. Bonsall thanked those who spoke about the ordinance, but stated he will vote for the ordinance; the ordinance is similar to one already in place in Cincinnati. Mrs. Hanrahan also thanked those who spoke; she will also be voting for the ordinance and cited a recent example of someone sticking his head in her car while in a drive thru in Norwood.
On a motion from Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

- 1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
On a motion from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Stickley, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
Mrs. Hanrahan asked why these ordinances are declared an emergency. Mrs. Laake stated that the Health Department sends orders to property owners to cut grass; if it isn't cut by the property owner, Public Works is sent to cut the grass and the bill is attached as a lien onto the property. When the property is sold, the cost of cutting the grass comes back to the city; this can only happen two times a year. Mr. Mumper added that there are several addresses appearing on multiple ordinances; this is because the grass had to be cut more than once. Mrs. Stickley asked what cost is incurred to place a lien. Mr. Mumper stated he is not aware of any costs.
On a motion from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
- 2) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
On a motion from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
On a motion from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
- 3) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
On a motion from Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Stickley, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
On a motion from Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Blair, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."
- 4) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
On a motion from 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 from Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All present voted, "Yes."

5) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Bonsall asked about putting all of the addresses on one ordinance, but changing the amount that appears per address. Mrs. Laake stated Public Works has established the cost of wages, equipment, etc., for cutting grass.

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

INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

There were no introductory readings of resolutions.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1) Letter from the Mayor Re: Miscellaneous Business

Mayor Williams spoke about the grand opening he attended at the new Health South facility on Section Avenue; it was a very nice event for a first-class facility. Along with Mayor Williams and his wife, Mary Ann, the grand opening was also attended by the following city officials: Mr. Bonsall, Mr. Reeves, Mrs. Hanrahan, Mr. Geers (SSD), and Mrs. Laake. Mrs. Williams ran into several women who helped her after having a stroke; it was an emotional moment but speaks highly of the type of care and the employees at this facility.

Mayor Williams addressed the recently publicized issue of MSD and the fight between the city of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. He thanked Mr. Moore and the Law Department for working with him and answering questions. He stated that we, the city of Norwood, are a rate payer; Norwood residents ask why the water bill is so high. MSD stated at a meeting about 10 years ago, that an increase of 7-10% can be expected yearly. Millions of dollars have been spent to stop storm water from emptying into creeks and rivers. Mayor Williams is researching a way to get our money placed into escrow; he thinks Norwood and other municipalities should have a say. There are three types of sewers: storm, sanitary, and combination. An ordinance passed by Norwood City Council in 1968 mentions nothing about storm sewers; Norwood is being billed for storm sewers. We are looking at ways to interject Norwood into the civil action, if filed in federal court. We have an obligation to Norwood residents, to do everything we can to make sure our best interests are protected.

Mayor Williams also spoke of the removal of the antenna mounted above Norwood City Hall. He stated that it has been there since the 1945; he thanked Tom McCabe, a Norwood Fireman, for taking the lead on removing the antenna.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

There were no other requests to address council.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cark mentioned the prayer meeting that took place on the steps of City Hall. There were about 40 people in attendance, including representation from the following churches: Cameron Avenue Church of God, Trinity Pentecostal Church, Norwood Church of Christ, Grace United Methodist, and New Haven Missionary Baptist Church. The next event will take place Saturday, March 5th, at 1pm, on the steps of Norwood City Hall. Mr. Clark also mentioned a community meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30pm, at Cameron Avenue Church of God. They will be discussing the Hope Over Heroin program; further details of the program can be found at www.hopeoverheroin.com.

Mr. Bonsall thanked Mayor and Mrs. Williams for an excellent job representing the City of Norwood at the Health South grand opening. He also thanked Mr. Geers (SSD) for having the pedestrian button fixed at Smith and Lafayette Avenues.

Mrs. Stickley announced there will be a Law and Ordinance Committee meeting February 10th at 6:30pm to discuss mobile signs.

Mr. Sanker placed the MSD issue into Committee of the Whole; an updated agenda will be sent with the addition of MSD.

Mrs. Laake announced the Safe Route to School group earned close to \$400,000 in grants last year; they will apply for another \$400,000 in grants for this year.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter from the Mayor

Re: Mayors Court Fines

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

2) Letter from the Mayor

Re: Appointment – Tax Incentive Review Council

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, and seconded by Mr. Sanker, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to approve the appointment of Mr. Andy Conlon and Mr. John Hanrahan to Tax Incentive Review Council as representatives of the City of Norwood. All present voted, "Yes."

3) Letter from the Mayor

Re: Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, and seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to enter into executive session to discuss contracts. All present voted, "Yes."

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

There were no absent members.

Q) ADJOURNMENT

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

Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council

Donna M. Laake
President of Council