



Council Chambers

February 27, 2018

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. Clark, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Stevenson, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Breadon; Mr. Bonsall and Mrs. Hanrahan were absent.

Mrs. Laake recognized and welcomed members of the Boy Scouts, Troop 9, who were in attendance to earn their "citizenship in the community" badge; they will interview individuals following the meeting.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

There are no amendments to the agenda.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2018, as if read, with corrections made to the spelling of Mr. Clark's name. 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 reports of standing committees of Council.

I) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.071 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, ENTITLED "CRUELTY TO COMPANION ANIMALS."

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

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

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 33-2009 TO ADD THE POSITION OF TAX CLERK, TO ESTABLISH THE TAX CLERK POSITION'S SALARY RANGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to place the matter into the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee.

Mr. Sanker asked for Mr. Molony to come forward and give an explanation of this change before it goes back to the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee. Mr. Molony stated he has been to the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee twice to discuss this matter and is surprised to hear there are more questions. Mr. Molony stated he is trying to make a lot of people happy and get things done in the Tax Office; the goal in his office is to collect \$18,500,000. Mr. Molony stated he doesn't have the right personnel to meet that goal; there are currently two empty positions. He is trying to switch the appointed job and the union jobs; move the appointed position to Tax Clerk and maybe the union can find a person interested in the union Treasury Clerk. Mr. Molony stated he has already been to the Finance Committee twice and provided them with worst case scenarios in union wage and health insurance expenses; he can go back and discuss it again with the Finance Committee to address their concerns. Mr. Molony hopes the position will appear on the March agenda. Mr. Clark stated he has questions about how this change will fit into the Fiscal Recovery Plan. Mr. Molony stated this is a two-step process; the first step is to get the positions ready and the second step is for Council to pass appropriations. Mr. Molony stated that just because the job is set up, does not mean the money has to be appropriated; the part in front of Council now is to simply set up the job. Mr. Sanker stated if permanent appropriations aren't submitted by March 27th, then there will not be any permanent appropriations in place, as the Financial Recovery Board meets on March 27th before the Council meeting. Mr. Moore stated the budget must be sent to Hamilton County by April 1st. Ms. Stevenson asked what happens when no one shows interest in a union position. Mr. Molony stated a union position is not being changed into an appointed position; the recommendation is not to fund one of the

union positions in his office but to fund a Treasury Clerk position in his office. No one from the union showed an interest in the Tax Clerk position. The union position is posted for a certain number of days; current union members can then sign or bump into a position and he has thirty days to decide if that person will remain. The union would have to ask the Safety-Service Director to administer a civil service test, and then hire from that list. Mr. Molony was hoping to fund the Treasury Clerk as a union position; there is no union interest in the Tax Clerk position but there is no guarantee anyone in the union will be interested in the Treasury Clerk position either. If now an appointed position, the Tax Clerk will be a candidate found by Mr. Molony and Mr. Barlow. Ms. Stevenson asked if the union advertised for the job; Mr. Molony confirmed it did not advertise, but stated it was posted for their current members. The position is still in its infancy; Mr. Molony stated he has not yet talked to the Law Department, the Safety-Service Director, or the union.

All present voted, "Yes."

2) ORDINANCE PROMOTING THE "CITY WIDE STREET SALE" MAY 11-12, 2018, AND ABATING ALL PERMIT FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE, as amended.

Mrs. Laake stated that Ms. Simpson, with the Senior Center, reached out via email saying the weekend of May 18-19 wouldn't work for the seniors; this is their major fundraising event.

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to change the dates of the City-Wide Street Sale to May 11-12, 2018, as amended. All present voted, "Yes."

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance, as amended. All present voted, "Yes."

J) INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

There were no introductory readings of resolutions.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administration reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Pastor Sonny James

Re: Community

Mr. James, of Hopkins Avenue, addressed Council regarding issues facing the community. Mr. James wanted to commend all efforts that had been made by those who embraced the celebrations in February, regarding Black History Month. Mr. James reminded Council that the city has come through many obstacles; he reminded those in authority, that if we use the same hiring processes to fill vacant positions, that we will get the same results. Mr. James stated the road crew kept the residents clear of harms way during the recent flood; he also expressed appreciation for the Norwood Police who continue to keep the roads and citizens safe. Ms. Stevenson asked Mr. James if he was aware of where jobs are posted; Mr. James confirmed that he was not aware. Ms. Stevenson asked Mr. James if there were certain places he would like to see jobs posted; Mr. James replied by saying the first thing the city needs to do, is a better way to provide grass roots approach. Ms. Stevenson expressed her hope that Mr. James could stay for the rest of the meeting, as she would be sharing opportunities for Ward 1 residents to connect with her directly.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Stevenson asked about the Committee of the Whole agenda for March 19th; Mrs. Laake replied by saying members of the Administration will be in attendance.

Mrs. Laake announced that Mrs. Hanrahan has cancelled the Housing, Health, and Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for March 5th.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Stevenson announced an Economic Development and Community Engagement Committee meeting taking place on March 1st, at 7pm, in Council Chambers; the agenda includes business development tools and committee goals. This committee will likely meet the first Thursday of every month at 7pm in Council Chambers.

Ms. Stevenson announced "Coffee with Council" taking place on March 3rd, at 8:30am, at Brick Coffee; this spawned from Ward 1 residents meeting with her about ideas, which lasted about an hour. The first five participants each month can receive a free cup of coffee paid for by Stevenson for Norwood Ward 1; this was launched to Ward 1, but is an informal meeting open to everyone to form a connection and allow for information to flow freely.

Mrs. Laake discussed how she has worked with the Comprehension Injury Prevention Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; this is where the PIN program was developed. Saturday, May 12th will be the next Safety Day in Norwood. A lot of injuries have been identified as happening in playgrounds. In 2017, 97.7FM had their annual radio-thon; they raised \$25,000-\$30,000 for the purchase of playground equipment, but they were unable to donate the equipment to Cincinnati Public Schools.

Mrs. Laake made the case for Norwood, and Northwoods Park will now be the recipient of the new playground equipment; Public Works will remove the merry-go-round, the slide, and “curly-q thing.” In order to receive the equipment, this must be a community build; 30-40 people will be needed. This will take place in late-May or early-June. Tools, music, and food will be provided. Mrs. Laake asked if this was something Mr. Thompson could advertise in his committee for volunteers; Troop 9 expressed an interest in assisting, as well. Mr. Breadon thanked Mrs. Laake for being a champion for the city of Norwood. Mrs. Laake thanked Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Letter from Ohio Liquor Control** **Re: License transfer 3825 Edwards Road**
On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to wait until the March 13th Council meeting to move forward on this matter. All present voted, “Yes.”
- 2) Letter from Chuck Barlow** **Re: Earnings Tax Report (January 2018)**
On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All present voted, “Yes.”
- 3) Letter from Joe Geers, Clerk of Council** **Re: Secretary to the Clerk of Council Pay**
Mr. Moore recommended Council make a motion to send a letter on behalf of Council to the Auditor’s office with the approved rate of pay. Mr. Clark stated he agrees with the rate of pay, but feels this should be included with the discussion of the Fiscal Recovery Plan at the next Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee meeting. Ms. Stevenson wanted Finance to get clarity on what the previous pay was for this position. Mrs. Laake stated she spoke with April Davis, and this position will have to be in the appropriations and the Fiscal Recovery Plan. Ms. Stevenson asked for a point of clarity, if Ms. Hill is able to be paid; Mr. Geers confirmed that she will be paid at the entry-level rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. Mrs. Laake stated provisions can also be made to have her increase made effective back to her start date. Mr. Thompson stated he doesn’t like the idea of putting off Ms. Hill receiving the promised rate of pay, but he does understand the need because of fiscal emergency.
On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to refer the matter to the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee. Mr. Sanker voted, “No,” and all others present voted, “Yes.”

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to excuse Mr. Bonsall and Mrs. Hanrahan. All present voted, “Yes.”

Q) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to adjourn. All present voted, “Yes”.

Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council

Donna M. Laake
President of Council