



Council Chambers

April 10, 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. Bonsall, Mr. Clark, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Stevenson, Mrs. Hanrahan, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Breadon.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add an ordinance regarding Paycor and move it to follow the approval of minutes and to allow representatives from Cornerstone to address Council following the Paycor ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2018 special meeting and March 27, 2018 regular meeting, 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

1) Parks, Recreation, Streets, and Infrastructure: 04/03/2018

Re: Tree Board, basketball hoops, and goals

Ms. Stevenson asked about the comment regarding working with businesses; Mr. Thompson stated this was in reference to businesses looking to donate money to the city. This also involved a formal way to ask for donations so that all parties are working in parallel with one another.

On a motion by Mrs. Hanrahan, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to receive and file the report. All present voted, "Yes."

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

There were no second or third readings of ordinances.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF REFUSE, RECYCLABLES, AND YARD WASTE FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2018, 2019 AND 2020, AS WELL AS FOR OPTION YEARS 2021 AND 2022, AMENDING ORDINANCE 38-2017, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Bonsall stated this will fix the original ordinance to make sure items are paid out of the correct fund. Mrs. Laake stated this will allow the Auditor to pay out of the refuse fund.

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

2) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE, AGREEMENT, UNDER STATE BID PURCHASE PROGRAM, WITH MILLENNIUM BUSINESS SYSTEMS FOR THE LEASE OF COPIERS FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mrs. Laake confirmed this falls within the Financial Recovery Plan; we get more copiers for less money. Mr. Bonsall stated this allows the city to save money earlier; he thanked the Safety-Service Director. Mrs. Laake stated the biggest savings is with cost per copy. Ms. Stevenson asked about the cost for supplies, paper, and repair appearing in the contract; Mrs. Laake confirmed the cost of copies

per machine will be cheaper but we still pay for the paper. Mr. Bonsall stated the needs of departments were evaluated to determine where machines were needed and located.

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

3) ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.071 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, ENTITLED "CRUELTY TO COMPANION ANIMALS" AND ORDINANCE 4-2018, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mrs. Laake stated penalties were not included in the previous ordinance. Ms. Stevenson asked if the ordinance will be renumbered since it was a modification taking place in the same year; Mr. Moore confirmed it will get anew number but it will go in the same section when codified. Ms. Stevenson asked about the need to publicize the change to this ordinance; Mr. Moore stated he was not sure how the first ordinance was publicized, beyond the normal process. Mr. Moore stated the city as a whole could do better to let people know of many issues and matters; he is not sure of the best way to go about it. Mr. Moore also stated there are some things outlawed under tethering that are truly cruelty to animals; there is more room for officers to cite someone and has more stiff penalties on a first offense. Mrs. Laake stated ordinances are posted on the Clerk of Council website; there were five public places where ordinances used to be posted. Ms. Stevenson asked if, because of changes, has the city considered posting at those places again; Mrs. Laake stated those boards are still there and we have access to them. Mr. Thompson asked how the Norwood Police know dog tethering is an issue, and how people call; Mr. Moore replied by stating the Norwood Police were the ones who actually called to say there was not a penalty section on the original ordinance that was passed.

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

4) ORDINANCE TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2018, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mrs. Laake stated this was reviewed by Anna Mary, with the State Auditor, which prompted the changes that were made. Mr. Bonsall stated the changes reflect the Fiscal Recovery Plan already approved by Council; there are two changes not reflected, which are funds not covered by the Fiscal Recovery Plan. Ms. Stevenson requested the exhibits accompanying the appropriation ordinances to be posted with the ordinance online.

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

5) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROPERTY INVESTMENT REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PAYCOR, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

(discussion and consideration of this ordinance took place following the approval of minutes)

Mr. Moore stated that several years ago, Paycor was looking for a new place to move their headquarters. The city entered a property investment reimbursement agreement, which allows the city to reimburse Paycor for a portion of the property and earnings tax that is collected; this was the same thing being offered by other communities. Paycor has been very successful and are out of room; they need to expand and hire more employees. They want to expand the reimbursement agreement terms beyond the original term. Mr. Moore suggested having two readings of the ordinance tonight and taking time to discuss and consider prior to the third reading. There will be additional paperwork regarding this matter in the future.

Mr. Moore introduced Jim McGraw to address Council. Mr. McGraw stated the Paycor headquarters has done extremely well in Norwood; they are out of space. Discussions have taken place with the Law Department and Mayor Williams regarding Paycor remaining in Norwood; through the relationship with Mayor Williams, an agreement was reached. Paycor would like to add 1,000 employees, which would double the number of employees at the site; this would entail a new office building and allowing total space for 1,900 employees. Mr. McGraw stated the current agreement is through December 31, 2026; a 50/50 sharing of income tax between the city and Paycor. When the current agreement expires, this ordinance will keep the same terms in place for another twelve years. This would start with a base of 900 employees; looking at growth, they are estimated to reach those numbers. Beginning in 2027, those first 900 jobs will be expired from the agreement. Mr. McGraw stated the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) puts money into public infrastructure, such as a parking garage; the parking garage could possibly have a capacity to hold as many as 1,400 vehicles. The TIF would pay for about 1/3 of the garage; Paycor would pay for the rest.

Andy Brossart, a municipal advisor, also addressed Council on this topic. Mr. Brossart stated the bond debt becomes a problem with having to dip into the \$400,000 TIF fund balance; he wants to see what Council's thoughts are on this, prior to going to the School Board. Mr. Brossart stated that refinancing will allow the fund balance to remain intact for the city, the schools wanted their annual excess each year, and the city could still use the \$400,000 for other projects. Mrs. Laake asked about the terms; Mr. Brossart confirmed the TIF life is through 2032. Mr. Bonsall stated the Ackerman Group discussed funding \$30,000 for a new gym floor and basketball backboards at the Norwood Community Center; he has concerns about doing anything to the agreement if there is no benefit to the city. Mr. Bonsall asked what happens to the \$400,000 during the last year of the term, more specifically, if Norwood is projected to get nothing if Council does nothing; Mr. Brossart confirmed that to be true, based on projections. The funds are currently wrapped up with a trust indenture; that is the only way to get money back to the city. Mrs. Laake wanted to clarify that donations toward a gym floor should have no impact on making a decision and that consideration is not contingent upon a \$30,000 donation toward the gym floor.

Mr. Sanker stated the long-term benefits for the city are two-fold; tenants stay and the building is not bankrupt, and in 2032 there may be \$400,000 available to the city. Mr. Woodside stated that is not a guarantee and it becomes complicated with various people getting access to those funds. If TIF payments do not meet or exceed the amount due on the bonds, then it would have to be paid for by the tenants; the downside is that the property is not as competitive and marketable to tenants. Mr. Brossart stated if this is passed on to the tenants, the city could then also lose income tax revenue. Mr. Moore asked how much more money will go to Norwood City Schools annually if refinancing takes place; Mr. Brossart stated \$5,000 – \$74,000, resulting in a \$624,000 gain. Mr. Woodside stated there is no specific legislative action today; they can come back to Council with an ordinance, but are looking to see the sentiment of Council before pursuing anything further.

Ms. Stevenson stated this topic was reported out of the Economic Development and Community Engagement Committee; the agreement was made in a way that no money is coming out of the general fund to close any gaps. Instruments are in place to guarantee the school district is guaranteed an amount, even if refinancing does not take place. Ms. Stevenson also finds it meaningful to not short-change the schools and that the discussion at this meeting was insightful. Ms. Stevenson then requested the Clerk of Council to send a letter to the Treasurer, asking about the income earnings tax revenue generated at the Cornerstone development. Mr. Moore asked about the potential of interest rates rising; Mr. Brossart replied by confirming that waiting much longer could risk canceling it completely. Mr. Thompson stated he understands the desire to know about the earnings from this development and has concerns about businesses leaving the city. Mr. Thompson stated Council has a responsibility to help maintain levels of employment within the city; his decision is about protecting tenants and keeping jobs in the city. Mrs. Hanrahan stated she is also in agreement with Mr. Thompson. Mr. Bonsall stated he understands Mr. Thompson's concerns and he will not stand in the way of refinancing; he would like to see interest from money in the TIF fund reinvested in parks or the community center, base upon edits to the trust document.

Mr. Sanker asks if Mr. Woodside and Mr. Brossart need an idea from Council in order to pursue the matter with the schools; Mr. Brossart replied by stating they need a letter of intent and cost defines to lock in a rate with term sheets. Mr. Woodside also replied by saying they are looking more for a "we're not doing this" and doesn't get that sense; Mr. Brossart stated they will proceed with the school district. The next step is to get an authorization for a term sheet, which will lock in the rate. Mr. Moore stated this will not cost the city a dime, aside from advertising the ordinance.

2) Sgt. Tim Buchanan Re: NPD Issues

Sgt. Buchanan, with the Norwood Police Department, addressed Council on several matters. Sgt. Buchanan began with a discussion about the dog tethering ordinance; he referenced a situation where temperatures were freezing outside and upon investigating the situation it was discovered no penalties were included in the ordinance. At that point, the Law Department was contacted; Sgt. Buchanan also confirmed that the Norwood Police are seeing ordinances that are passed by Council.

Sgt. Buchanan then discussed an idea that surfaced within the Police Department regarding a representative from the Norwood Police Department addressing Council; this was a move to build rapport with Council. Sgt. Buchanan explained his history and connection to the city of Norwood and he feels the relationship between Council and employees is lacking; the idea is to address Council on a regular basis to talk about things the department is doing. Sgt. Buchanan distributed his business card to all members of Council. Sgt. Buchanan stated he is here to communicate with Council; he needs to hear their comments and questions to take back and confirmed this has to be a give and take situation. Sgt. Buchanan stated he will be the point of contact for Council and he wants to introduce Council to the Police Officers; the actions of several officers were highlighted. Sgt. Buchanan also reviewed some statistical data with members of Council.

Ms. Stevenson thanked Sgt. Buchanan and asked about breaking out some of the data by emergency versus non-emergency; she also asked for an additional drill-down of service calls. Sgt. Buchanan asked Ms. Stevenson to reach out via email, so that he can reply with available data. Mrs. Hanrahan thanked Sgt. Buchanan for his presence at the meeting and stated she would like to know all of the employees. Mrs. Hanrahan asked Sgt. Buchanan to educate residents about “vacation checks.” Sgt. Buchanan stated residents can complete a form when they go out of town; each shift, an officer will check on the home daily. Mr. Breadon thanked Sgt. Buchanan for his 22 years of service and then asked for an update on the opioid crisis in Norwood; Sgt. Buchanan stated the number of runs are starting to come down but it is not under control. Mrs. Hanrahan stated the Norwood Police Department is starting the NICE program; Norwood Identifies Citizen Encounters is a program in which the Norwood Police are looking to protect residents with autism and dementia. By signing up for the program, the resident will receive a card; information is on file with the police, so that they are aware of a resident in the household having dementia or autism. Mrs. Hanrahan stated the Norwood NICE program is modeled after the program in place in Colerain. Sgt. Buchanan stated the NICE program is supported by Chief Kramer.

Sgt. Buchanan also provided an update on hiring; staffing levels should be at 48, but they are currently at 40 officers. There were 41 individuals who recently took the police test; all 41 passed the test and 40 then took the agility test and the next steps include a background check and polygraph test. Sgt. Buchanan stated the goal for starting interviews is first part of May; all candidates are certified or are currently in the Police Academy. There should be new hires by June 2018. Ms. Stevenson asked about the interview process; Sgt. Buchanan replied by stating there is a panel interview of five officers looking at each candidate with a list of interview questions. The candidate will then be scored and ranked and recommended to the Administration. Ms. Stevenson asked about introducing the newly hired officers to Council; Sgt. Buchanan replied by stating he believes the swearing in of new officers should take place at Council meetings. Ms. Stevenson requested the Clerk of Council send a letter to Chief Kramer and the Administration, asking them to consider swearing in all new police officers at Norwood City Council meetings, based on Sgt. Buchanan’s presentation and feedback. Mr. Bonsall agreed about the significance of swearing in new officers, and any other officials, in Council Chambers; Mr. Bonsall thanked Sgt. Buchanan for addressing Council. Mr. Clark stated he is excited and thankful about the new point of communication

- 3) Sha-go-ree Chatterjee Re: Public Library levy on the ballot on May 8th2018
Ms. Chatterjee, the manager of the Norwood Branch Library, was addressing Council and residents of Norwood regarding the upcoming tax levy for the library, and thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Chatterjee reviewed some of the statistics for the Norwood Library and the entire library system; the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is the second most used library in the country, second only to the New York Public Library. State funding to the library has been cut by 26% since 2000; the levy is for 1 mil, for ten years, and will cost less than \$3.00 per \$100,000 property value. Ms. Stevenson asked about Ms. Chatterjee’s note sheet and if it was something for distribution; Ms. Chatterjee replied by stating she will get back to her with an official fact sheet. Mr. Clark asked about a schedule of programs and activities at the Norwood Library; Ms. Chatterjee replied by confirming program details are available on the library website.

- 4) Larry McCafferty Re: Norwood Christian Church Food Mission
Mr. McCafferty, of Forest Avenue, spoke to Council regarding the Norwood Christian Church Food Mission; they are looking at starting a food ministry. Mr. McCafferty stated they are in the very beginning stages and are trying to find a way to get food to people in need; to date, he has spoken with the Health Department, the Police Department, and the schools. Mr. McCafferty will follow-up with all members of Council.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake distributed a red-line version of the retiree health plan; Mr. Moore had also made some changes. Mrs. Laake asked members of Council to review the plan and get back with her; this matter will appear in Committee of the Whole in the future.

Ms. Stevenson stated she had talked with representatives from Metro; the SORTA board has not yet identified the amount of a tax levy for the fall. Ms. Stevenson recommends holding off meeting with Metro until funding levels are identified.

N) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) **Letter from Mayor Williams Re: Report for Mayor’s Court for the month of March**

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

2) Letter from Service-Safety Director Re: Water Rates

Mr. Clark asked if the new rates are already in effect; Mrs. Laake replied by stating city ordinance requires a 30-day notice. Ms. Stevenson asked if it the 30 days indicates when the new rate starts; Mrs. Laake confirmed that in the past, everyone is changed in the same quarter, but clarification can be provided.

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive the letter. 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. Breadon, it was moved to adjourn. All present voted, "Yes".

Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council

Donna M. Laake
President of Council