



# Special Council Meeting

## Council Chambers

### April 30, 2019 ~ 6:00pm

#### A) CALL TO ORDER

The Council for the City of Norwood met in special 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, Mrs. Hanrahan, and Mr. Breadon; Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Sanker were absent.

Mrs. Laake pointed out that the title of the resolution on the agenda states "Safety-Service Director," but it should state "Service-Safety Director." The actual resolution and the contents of the resolution reflect the correct title. This meeting was called because three members of Council requested the meeting.

#### E) DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATION SENT BY THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE ON APRIL 25, 2019.

Mrs. Hanrahan asked if the content of the email could be read, for everyone to be aware of the email in question; the Clerk of Council read the email thread.

Mrs. Hanrahan stated the role of the city is to provide for the safety and security of the citizens; the email sent by the Service-Safety Director was highly provocative and serves no useful purpose. Mrs. Hanrahan stated she supports all departments and employees within the city; this email is not a way to treat city employees.

Mr. Bonsall expressed his concern about the tone of the email sent by the Service-Safety Director; the resolution acknowledges there are disagreements between Council, the administration, and members of the Norwood Police Department, but addresses the fact that those disagreements should be handled with respect. The resolution also addresses the fact that there is respect and pride for all of the work that is done by employees of the city.

Mrs. Laake acknowledged Mr. Sanker's arrival in Council Chambers.

#### F) RESOLUTION CONDEMNING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND REAFFIRMING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR CITY EMPLOYEES.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the resolution.

Mr. Bonsall stated the motion to have all three readings is to move forward; he recommends all members support having three readings.

Mr. Thompson stated everyone realizes the city is in a fiscal situation, which causes tempers to flare, but that is no excuse for communicating in a way that sows discord and disfunction; this resolution is not trying to call a person out, but to address the tone of the communication that Council finds questionable.

Mr. Breadon stated he does not believe a resolution is needed to express his support of the Norwood Police Department; he doesn't feel it is Council's authority to condemn another city employee. Mr. Breadon stated he supports the Norwood Police Department 100%; it is his understanding that the cruisers discussed in the email are already approved.

Mr. Bonsall amended his motion to suspend the rules and have the first reading of the resolution in its entirety, and the second and third readings by caption only; Mr. Thompson agreed to amend his second to the motion.

Mr. Bonsall stated he appreciated Mr. Breadon's comments. Council is able to make their voice heard through ordinances and resolutions; they have no other authority in this particular matter. This resolution is the first and only step Council has to express their voice. Mr. Bonsall stated that he replied to the email confirming Council plans to purchase two police cruisers; there is no guarantee the cruisers will arrive unless the administration signs the purchase orders.

Mr. Sanker confirmed Mr. Bonsall's statement that a resolution is a way for Council to express support or displeasure; there is no one in Council Chambers who does not support the Norwood Police Department. Mr. Sanker stated his support of having all three readings is to avoid dragging out a resolution on future meeting agendas; he doesn't want two more meetings with this type of atmosphere.

Mr. Sanker stated the Norwood Police Department does a great job. The original email was between three individuals; Mr. Sanker expressed his disappointment in the fact that a correspondence between two people was sent to the media and posted on social media. Sending an inter-department communication over social media is unprofessional and irresponsible on either party. Mr. Sanker believes the email could have been more eloquently worded.

Mr. Thompson stated he understands the comments made by Mr. Sanker about social media; the city, however, does not have a Human Resources Department to handle this type of situation. Mr. Thompson asked the other members of Council if they support the tone of the email; Mr. Thompson stated the tone of the email is an inappropriate way to communicate. Council has a professional responsibility to deal with this matter.

Mr. Breadon stated he is unsure of any other emails that were sent; there were 24 hours between the two emails in question. Mr. Breadon does not condone the tone of the email and agrees with Mr. Sanker that the email shouldn't be out there. Mr. Breadon wanted to clarify that if he were to vote "no" on the resolution, it is not a vote against the Norwood Police Department; he supports the Norwood Police Department.

Mrs. Hanrahan stated she understands Mr. Sanker's feelings, unfortunately, the email did get out; it reflects on everyone, not just the city administration. Mrs. Hanrahan stated it is Council's responsibility to address this and clarify their support of the Norwood Police Department. Mrs. Hanrahan also spoke about the age of the police vehicles and a comment in the email pertaining to the number of cruisers that were totaled; given the number of hours spent in the vehicles, their accident rate is not bad.

All members present voted, "Yes."

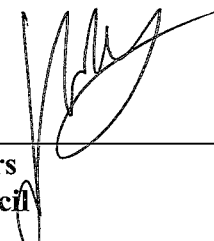
On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to pass the resolution. Mr. Sanker and Mr. Breadon voted, "No," while all other members present voted, "Yes." By a vote of 4-2, the motion carries.

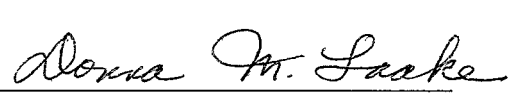
**G) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S**

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to excuse Ms. Stevenson's absence. All present voted, "Yes."

**H) ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to adjourn. All present voted, "Yes".

  
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Joseph S. Geers  
Clerk of Council

  
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Donna M. Laake  
President of Council