



Special Council Meeting

Council Chambers

July 12, 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, Ms. Stevenson, Mrs. Hanrahan, and Mr. Breadon; Mr. Sanker was absent.

E) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

- 1) ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CITY EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM HIRING, PROCESSING PAYROLL, ISSUING OR PROCESSING ANY EMPLOYMENT PAPERWORK, AND AUTHORIZING ANY EXPENDITURES FOR EQUIPMENT OR UNIFORMS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL HIRED OR ATTEMPTING TO BE HIRED WITHOUT APPROPRIATIONS 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.

Mr. Thompson asked for the motion to be amended to hear the first reading in its entirety; Mr. Bonsall agreed to amend his motion and Mr. Clark agreed to amend his second to the motion.

Mr. Bonsall stated the purpose of this ordinance is to prevent hiring without appropriations.

Mrs. Laake noted Mr. Sanker's arrival to Council Chambers.

Ms. Stevenson asked about a communication to Council from Mayor Williams regarding hiring; Mr. Bonsall replied by stating Council has not received any communication from the Mayor on this matter, but letters were sent to the Police and Fire Chiefs. Ms. Stevenson also asked if the Law Department will be present at the meeting tonight; Mrs. Laake responded by stating Mr. Garry was called to assist with another emergency matter within the city but that he did express concerns about the first two ordinances.

Mr. Sanker vote, "No;" all other members present voted, "Yes."

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to pass the ordinance.

Ms. Stevenson expressed her concern regarding no representation from the Law Department being present at the meeting to answer questions, as well as asking a question of clarity regarding language that conflicts with the powers of the mayor to execute. Ms. Stevenson stated there is conflict in understanding how ORC is being applied to the need to balance the budget; the efforts, while warranted, could mean Council is creating a liability. Ms. Stevenson expressed her appreciation of the first reading being read in its entirety.

Mr. Sanker stated this is not enforceable and is outside the realm of Norwood City Council; he expressed he will not be voting for this ordinance. Mr. Thompson stated that he understands the concerns being raised. The important part is that appropriations are made and/or changed; most other changes to appropriations do not have the same financial liability as this. Mr. Thompson explained that Council controls the "purse strings" of the city budget; this ordinance is a way of saying new hires should not happen until funds are appropriated. Mr. Thompson expressed his surprise in hearing others say that it doesn't matter what has been appropriated and that the Mayor can use money however he sees fit; this is a manufactured crisis that did not need to happen. In this situation, Council has the power to do what they can to minimize the immediate damage to the finances of the city.

Mrs. Hanrahan stated she sent an email to Mr. Garry regarding hiring without appropriations; cities cannot spend money unless appropriated. Mrs. Hanrahan stated this concerns the future of the entire city. This ordinance is an attempt to secure a positive financial future for Norwood and for future Councils; it will impact the ability to repair streets, upgrade parks, purchase new cruisers and new equipment for other departments, and having enough staff at Public Works. Mrs. Hanrahan stated Norwood has "top-notch" Police and Fire employees who provide an excellent level of service on a daily basis, even though we are in Fiscal Emergency; action being taken tonight will not undermine services that are currently being provided. Norwood cannot afford new hires and fixing streets and upgrading the parks.

Mr. Clark stated he agrees with Mr. Thompson; he believes the ordinance says that in order to hire, the city needs to make sure the money is there. This will impact the future of Norwood for years to come. Mr. Bonsall stated he supports passing this ordinance; it is asking employees of the city to follow state law regarding spending and appropriations.

Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Sanker voted, "No;" all other members voted, "Yes." The motion carries.

- 2) **ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CITY EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM HIRING, PROCESSING PAYROLL, ISSUING OR PROCESSING ANY EMPLOYMENT PAPERWORK, AND AUTHORIZING ANY EXPENDITURES FOR EQUIPMENT OR UNIFORMS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL HIRED OR ATTEMPTING TO BE HIRED WITHOUT APPROPRIATIONS.**

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to remove this ordinance from the agenda. All members present voted, "Yes."

- 3) **RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MAYOR'S DETAILED FINANCIAL PLAN APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON MARCH 26, 2019.**

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

Mr. Sanker asked why there were only six lines for signatures on the letter to request the special meeting, when there are seven members on Council; Mr. Bonsall replied by stating he wasn't sure if even five signatures could be collected on the form. Mrs. Laake reviewed the form and confirmed there were only spaces for six signatures. Mrs. Hanrahan asked Mr. Bonsall about giving all members the opportunity to sign the letter; Mr. Bonsall replied by confirming a text was sent to everyone using the phone numbers he was provided. Mr. Sanker did not recall seeing a text message on this topic. Mr. Thompson pointed out to those watching the meeting that only three signatures are required to request a special meeting.

Ms. Stevenson requested that the motion be amended to hear the first reading in its entirety. Mr. Bonsall agreed to amend his motion and Mrs. Hanrahan agreed to amend her second to the motion.

All members present voted, "Yes."

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to pass the resolution.

Mr. Bonsall stated the intent of the resolution is to let the Financial Planning and Supervision Commission know that Council wants to keep the current plan in place.


All members present voted, "Yes."

F) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S


There were no absent members.

G) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, 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 Pro Tem