



# Council Chambers

## January 9, 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

Mrs. Laake welcomed the new members of Council.

### 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. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add the Law Director and the Mayor under Administration Reports, add a communication from Mayor Williams regarding Mayor's Court, and add a communication from Mr. Moore regarding possible Cornerstone TIF Bond. All members present voted, "Yes".

### F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to accept the minutes of the December 26, 2017 meeting and the January 1, 2018 special 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

There were no standing committee reports.

### I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no second or third readings of ordinances or resolutions.

### J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

There were no introductory readings of ordinances.

### J) INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

#### 1) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A DAY OF SERVICE IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Sanker, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the resolution, with the first reading in its entirety. All present voted, "Yes."

Ms. Stevenson stated she is excited to be here and to be able to collaborate with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Breadon on this resolution. Ms. Stevenson is excited about being able to highlight the history of volunteerism in Norwood, and invited everyone to visit [www.MLK.gov](http://www.MLK.gov) to learn more about other ideas to help celebrate the holiday; there is also a local MLK-Norwood Facebook page created to focus on events in Norwood.

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

### K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mr. Moore discussed several highlights from the Law Department's annual report; the Law Department is the attorney for the city. A copy of the written annual report is on file in the Clerk of Council's office. Mr. Moore asked for Council to appoint a Secretary to the Clerk of Council, as his secretary is still performing secretary to the Clerk of Council tasks. Mr. Moore provided an update on the Virgil case; it is a civil rights case based out of Kentucky. The case is difficult and complex; Mr. Moore and Mr. Garry are representing the city in the case. The Law Department received a 42-page ruling today; seven out of the eight counts were kicked out. Mr. Moore also stated that some information has been provided to Walter Drane for the codification of ordinances; they are also comparing our changes to state law, making sure everything is up to date. Mr. Bonsall asked a question about Walter Drane being able to provide to Council a copy of changes being made to meet state law; Mr. Moore replied by saying Council will pass the revised codified ordinances.

Mayor Williams distributed a copy of salaries for city official to all members of Council to help them understand the salary structure. Mayor Williams stated he is beginning his 15<sup>th</sup> year in office; he is going

to cover different areas in his report to Council. The city is in fiscal emergency; changes need to be made in the way the city conducts its affairs. When a municipality is placed under fiscal emergency, a financial commission is put in place; State Auditors are here on a daily basis. All equipment purchases must be approved by the financial planning commission. Council cannot spend money that is not in the financial recovery plan; all of those potential purchases must be approved by the commission. Mayor Williams stated the city cannot do the same things as in the past and expect a different outcome. Mayor Williams spoke about contracts; there are things that can be negotiated with bargaining units; it may go to fact-finding and/or involve an arbitrator. The city has hired one of the best law firms in the state to defend the city in contract negotiations. With the election of a new Council, Mayor Williams recommends Council as Committee of the Whole have regularly scheduled meeting to discuss financial matters and answer questions; he will assist Council with any information they need. These meetings would include, but not limited to, the Police, Fire and Building Departments, 911, etc. This will be a great opportunity to also share information with citizens. Mayor Williams believes this will be a way for Council to communicate with the public and for city officials and department heads to communicate with Council; this is the only way the city will get ahead and for new Council members to get caught up. Mayor Williams discussed the financial future, and the fact that the city once had \$3,000,000 in reserve; he proposed saving revenue generated from the new Paycor facility and the old Zumbiel site into a separate locked fund until a goal of \$4,000,000 is saved. Once the goal is met, the money can then be placed into the general fund. The city has a history of spending money before it comes in; he referenced Linden Pointe as an example. If there is a reserve fund, this can be used to show citizens that the city can save money, if asking residents to pass a street levy in the future. There will never be enough money in the general fund to cover all streets; it will take about \$30,000,000. Mayor Williams stated the city has to reduce operating costs while maintaining the same level of service provided to residents. Taking corrective action will help the city get out of fiscal emergency within 2-3 years. Ms Stevenson asked if the reserve fund idea came out of the financial planning commission; Mayor Williams confirmed it did not come out of the commission. Ms. Stevenson also asked the significance of the \$4,000,000 amount in the reserve fund; Mayor Williams stated that in 2008 there was around \$3,500,000 in reserve until the bottom dropped out and then the reserve was gone. Ms. Stevenson asked how the reserve was built up before; Mayor Williams stated much of it was when the Cornerstone TIF was refinanced. Mrs. Laake stated the reserve fund is a great idea, but money has to be placed in the general fund to get out of fiscal emergency; she will take Mayor Williams' idea to the financial planning commission. Mr. Sanker also spoke about the reserve fund; the revenue from these two developments is not included in the increased revenue amount within the financial plan. Mr. Sanker also stated that if the city can meet the revenue generation that was provided to the commission, and then have additional funds available to set aside for a reserve, that it might be the way to approach this idea with the financial planning commission; it will include plans for infrastructure and the future.

#### **L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

##### **Chief Bill Kramer**

##### **Re: State of Police Department; Litigation against City**

Bill Kramer, Norwood Chief of Police, addressed Council regarding the state of the Norwood Police Department and the status of litigation against the city. Chief Kramer stated he filed a lawsuit naming the Mayor and the Safety-Service Director in October; it was a professional matter. Chief Kramer stated he has worked well with the Mayor, but his relationship with Mayor Williams has deteriorated; at this time, the lawsuit was the right thing to do. Chief Kramer stated Mayor Williams and Safety-Service Director Geers are integral to every department in the city. Last week, he informed his attorney to discontinue the lawsuit. Everyone in the city needs to be on one team to be the best that they can. Chief Kramer stated they are in the process of getting tests for hiring new police officers; ten officers have left and went to other agencies in the last year and their experience cannot be replaced. Chief Kramer stated he met with almost all of the officers who left; lack of adequate equipment, lack of faith in the city, and issues between the Police Department and city hall were several of the reasons given by those who left. Chief Kramer stated his goal when graduating the Police Academy was to become a Norwood Police officer; he has never looked to work anywhere else. Chief Kramer stated he will fix what is broke, that his door is always open, and he thanked Council allowing him time to speak.

##### **Pastor Sonny James**

##### **Re: Community**

Mr. James, of Hopkins Avenue, addressed Council regarding issues in the community. Mr. James wished a Happy New Year to all residents, Council, the Mayor, and all families who have patiently waited and prayed for newness in the community. Mr. James stated he is very hopeful that change is on the horizon; he reminded Council of his 13-point plan.

#### **M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mrs. Hanrahan thanked Chief Kramer for speaking tonight and stated she understands his frustrations of not being able to work together; she is hopeful that all in the city can trust each other. Everyone wants the same thing, which is the best for Norwood.



**N) NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Sanker placed the matter of C9 into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Mrs. Laake stated anything remaining in Council Committees died in committee at the end of the year and would have to be reintroduced this year. Ms. Stevenson asked about a timeline on updates with the C9. Mrs. Laake stated a Committee of the Whole meeting will take place in February or March; everything will be in place so that there is no rushing at the end of the year. Once all details are clarified and approved, legislation will then be drafted by Mr. Moore and the Law Department. Council could then have one reading at three consecutive meetings to provide for input by residents and members of Council.

Mr. Bonsall announced a Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee meeting on January 22, 2018, at 6pm in Council Chambers; agenda items include reviewing the state of city finances, appropriations, and potentially discussing allocating funds from certain developments into a savings account.

Mr. Thompson mentioned residents who were recently displaced by the cold weather; Norwood is a great community that rallies around people in times of need. Mr. Thompson suggests coming up with a way to become more involved, as Council, to put plans together to help displaced residents; be proactive and not reactive in ways to help our citizens. Mayor Williams confirmed the issues raised by Mr. Thompson were addressed immediately; the Police, Fire, and Building departments were involved. Mayor Williams stated there were legal issues in which one landlord reacted very quickly and did the right thing, but the other landlord did not; it was a complicated situation and the city departments worked together and handled it well.

Mr. Clark announced an open gym that will take place for youth (ages 10 and up) in the community on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at Trinity Pentecostal Church from 5pm-7pm.

Mr. Bonsall thanked Mr. Thompson for his suggestion regarding additional planning for emergencies. Mr. Bonsall also thanked Mayor Williams for giving his state of the city address; Mr. Bonsall acknowledged it was a fantastic idea from Mayor Williams to suggest having Committee of the Whole meetings with various city officials and department heads. On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to set a meeting in February or March for a Committee of the Whole meeting with Chief Kramer, Captain Bellman, the Mayor, and the Safety Service Director. Mrs. Laake stated she will contact all involved parties to confirm a meeting date. All present voted, “Yes.”

Mr. Sanker acknowledged the number of water main breaks cause by the cold weather; asphalt plants are closed so the city may have to temporarily fill newly formed potholes with gravel. If anyone notices a water leak, please contact the city.

**O) COMMUNICATIONS**

**1) Letter from Keith Moore**

**Re: Appointment to the Energy Special Improvement District Board of Directors**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to appoint Donna Laake as the board member. All present voted, “Yes.”

**2) Letter from Mayor Williams**

**Re: Mayor’s Court Fines (December 2017)**

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 Keith Moore**

**Re: Possible Cornerstone TIF Bond Refinancing**

Ms. Stevenson asked if Mr. Moore and Bond Counsel would be available for a meeting during the day; Mr. Moore confirmed their availability for the meeting. Mr. Moore also stated this action shouldn’t cost the city anything, aside from the cost of advertising ordinances that are passed. Mr. Breadon asked Mr. Moore if Mr. Stith needed to be involved in the process; Mr. Moore replied by saying Mr. Stith did not need to be involved, as the Auditor’s office is more of a conduit during this process.

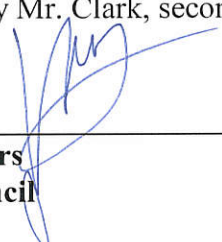
On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to place the matter into the Economic Development and Community Engagement committee. All present voted, “Yes.”

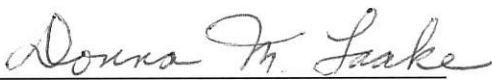
**P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S**

There were no absent members.

**Q) ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, 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