



Council Chambers

October 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

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.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: move the resolution to immediately follow the approval of minutes. 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 September 25, 2018 meeting, as if read. Mr. Breadon abstained, while all others 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.

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

There were no second or third readings of ordinances.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

There were no introductory readings of ordinances.

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

- 1) RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING THOSE WHO RESTORED THE M60A3 TANK, AND CLEANED UP AND PLANTED FLOWERS AT VICTORY PARK, IN OBSERVATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY, ON NOVEMBER 11, 2018.

Mrs. Hanrahan, Mrs. Laake, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Breadon each individually expressed their thanks to those who were present for their hard work, service, and dedication. There were several individuals recognized in the resolution who briefly spoke; they stated it was an honor to work on restoring the tank and also expressed their thanks and appreciation to the city administration and Norwood Public Works for their assistance. Mr. Bientz announced bricks will be sold for the "Pathway to Freedom" at Victory Park; anyone interested in purchasing a brick for a veteran may contact Dave Bientz on Facebook or call the American Legion at 396-7337. Mrs. Laake presented signed copies of the resolution to those who were present.

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to hear the first reading of the resolution in its entirety. All members present voted, "Yes."

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administrative reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Diane Ficker

Re: Problems caused by Montgomery Road widening project and sidewalk reduction

Mrs. Ficker, owner of the property at 5001 Montgomery Road, addressed Council regarding issues concerning the street and sidewalk in front of the building and damage that has taken place to the building because of the condition of Montgomery Road. Mrs. Ficker stated her and her husband purchased the building in 1983 for his dental office; it was built in 1900. Problems began with the project that involved Carthage Avenue becoming a dead end and the widening of Montgomery Road; the width of the sidewalk in front of the building and the exposed water line are both safety concerns. In the winter, buses drive by and splash water and salt directly onto the building. Mrs. Ficker distributed packets of photographs to all

members of Council; the photographs highlighted the damage done to the building and the condition of the road in front of the building. Mrs. Ficker also played two videos; the videos highlighted the impact of water hitting the building when cars, trucks, and buses drive over the sunken portion of Montgomery Road. Mrs. Ficker described the steps she has taken in getting this issue resolved; she first called the Safety-Service Director in 2016, who advised her to contact the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT returned her call several months later, and informed Mrs. Ficker that the project was approved by the city of Norwood. Mrs. Ficker stated she was not aware of any public hearings taking place when this project began; she received no written notification. The Safety-Service Director referred Mrs. Ficker to the Law Department; her attorney has written a letter to the city but has not yet received a response. Mrs. Ficker is bringing the matter before Council to get a resolution; she also stressed the street is a safety concern. Mr. Thompson stated there appears to be a drainage and a grading issue in the road that is causing the water collection; he would like to see this fixed and not simply patched. Mr. Bonsall stated the city needs to have funding for street repaving in the budget; infrastructure issues like this can no longer be ignored.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to refer this matter into the Parks, Streets, and Infrastructure Committee. All present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Breadon asked Mrs. Ficker what she thinks needs to be done; Mrs. Ficker replied by stating she would like to see the street fixed the right way and money from the city to repair damage that has taken place to the front of the building. Mrs. Ficker stated this was not an issue before the completion of the project, because there was more space between the building and Montgomery Road.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake provided an update on the retiree healthcare; so far this year, around \$150,000 in back claims has been paid, and a statement for another \$18,000 should be paid for 2016 and 2017 claims, once verified. Mrs. Laake also confirmed that she received an email from the Safety-Service Director indicating that Benovations is terminating their contract with Norwood; Benovations is getting out of the third-party administrator business. The stop-gap insurance will expire on October 31, 2018. Claims for the year 2018 have been handled by S & S Healthcare, which is located in Minnesota; they have been handling claims since January 1, 2018. Mrs. Laake stated she asked Mr. Geers about extending the contract by 90 days for a close-out clause, and continuing with the stop-gap coverage. Mr. Geers stated he does not have that authority, as Council would have to give him direction.

Mrs. Laake stated she spoke with Julie Tople of Horan and Associates, who thinks the city should get a contract with S & S Healthcare, and not Benovations. Mrs. Laake asked about the stop-gap insurance; we are currently paying around \$22,000 per month with limited liability. Mrs. Laake stated Council needs to decide which way to go; she will then contact Ms. Tople with the desired direction. The hope is to have this resolved by the next Council meeting with a contract; the goal is to get the retirees everything that is due to them. It is not a state law that coverage lasts two years; that was included in the contract. Mrs. Hanrahan asked who will be responsible for all of the back claims that have not been paid after October 31, 2018, since she still has unpaid claims from 2015; Mrs. Laake stated she is unable to answer that but did confirm that Benovations is trying hard to get payments sent out to plan members. Mrs. Hanrahan asked Mr. Garry if Benovations is responsible for processing the backed claims that they had previously been given, since that is what they were being paid to do; Mr. Garry stated he would need to see the contract wording to answer that question. Mr. Bonsall stated he thinks Benovations should provide a list of all paid claims for the last three years for each plan member; he wonders if there is an easy way to see what has been paid. Mr. Bonsall also wonders if it is financially reasonable to continue paying for the stop-gap insurance, due to the lack of use; he is looking forward to hearing from S & S Healthcare. Mr. Clark asked about the status of any claims currently in the possession of Benovations; Mrs. Laake stated she isn't aware of the current status. Mrs. Laake reminded everyone that the city didn't pay bills for several years; the latest round of checks should catch up most of the backed claims. Mr. Clark expressed concerns about handing the service over to someone else, and if they will know about items that haven't yet been paid; Mrs. Laake replied by saying this is a discussion Ms. Tople will have to have with Benovations and S & S Healthcare. Mrs. Hanrahan has concerns about payments being made with the wrong dates; she has received payment from Benovations for services provided in 2020. Mr. Bonsall stated Mrs. Hanrahan brings up many things that have to be figured out; Mr. Schlotman denied that there are boxes of claims anywhere, but we need to know where the records are. Mr. Bonsall expressed his frustration in hearing all of this now; he encourages retirees to save their paperwork on claims that they think might not have been paid.

Mrs. Laake again reminded Council that she needs direction on this matter to give to Ms. Tople. Mr. Thompson suggested the city reach out to S & S Healthcare; he asks if they are able to get the data they need from Benovations to process current claims and any backed claims. Mr. Bonsall believes S & S Healthcare is the right way to go; he also recommends discontinuing the stop-gap insurance. Mrs. Laake stated S & S Healthcare should have the ability to get information from Benovations to pay backed claims; she could possibly call a special meeting if the necessary details are obtained by Ms. Tople. Mrs.

Hanrahan agrees that saving money by discontinuing the stop-gap coverage is a good thing, if the savings are based off of correct information. Mrs. Laake will let Ms. Tople know that Council would like her to pursue S & S Healthcare for 2018 claims and for them to continue to do payments for back years, and to confirm the number of claims filed for the stop-gap insurance. Mr. Bonsall would also like for plan members to submit paperwork for backed years, and that S & S Healthcare will be able to identify if those backed claims have already been paid or not. Mrs. Hanrahan wanted to remind retirees that there is no insurance coverage effective January 1, 2019; with the new plan, an allotted amount of money will be paid to plan members. Mrs. Laake stated another level of confusion has been added to members of the Police and Fire Pension Fund, due to the fact that they mailed out information about a stipend being provided, instead of insurance; all of this information is being sent at the same time.

Mrs. Laake provided copies of the 5-year budget forecast; the previous copies did not have the back pages included when they were copied. Mr. Breadon wanted to clarify that the missing pages were not the fault of Mr. Stith; the report was not copied correctly when distributed to members of Council.

Mrs. Hanrahan stated she visited Ms. Dinovo, who recently spoke to Council about the issue with her neighbors' trees on Allison Street; she is working with her on the matter.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson announced a Parks, Streets, and Infrastructure Committee meeting taking place on October 23rd, at 6:15pm, in Council Chambers.

Mr. Bonsall announced the "Gem of the Highlands 5k" that will take place November 10th, at 8:30am; it will start and end at Brick Coffee on Floral Avenue. There is a \$25 registration fee; more information can be found at norwoodrun.com.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter from Mayor Thomas Williams Re: Mayor's Court Fines

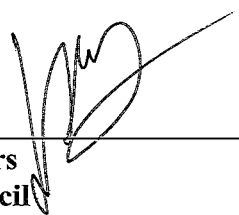
On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All present voted, "Yes."

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

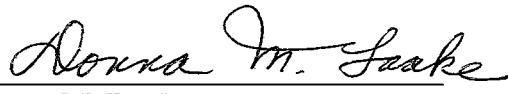
On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to excuse Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Sanker. All members present voted, "Yes."

Q) ADJOURNMENT

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



Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council



Donna M. Laake
President of Council