



# Council Chambers

## February 12, 2019 ~ 7:30pm

### 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 requested a moment of silence to acknowledge the recent passing of John Brockman and Steve Schad. Mr. Brockman was a Norwood Firefighter for more than 30 years and Mr. Schad was a former President of Council; both gentlemen touched the city of Norwood.

### 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 Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add an ordinance regarding Cincinnati Bell telephone and internet services, an ordinance regarding a printer or the Auditor's office, and an ordinance repealing chapter 549 regarding weapons and explosives. Ms. Stevenson asked about the cover letters for these ordinances and why they are being presented as emergencies; Mr. Moore replied by stating the Cincinnati Bell contract is nearing the end and would need to be renewed. Ms. Stevenson raised a question to table the motion to amend the agenda until members of Council are able to review the cover letters for each of the ordinances; Mr. Sanker recommended having the Clerk of Council copy and distribute copies of the cover letters to all members of Council prior to the consideration of the ordinances.

All members present voted, "Yes."

### F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting, as if read. All members 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) **Law, Ordinance, and Human Resources: 1/28/19**      **Re: Council Minutes and Executive Session**  
On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to receive and file the committee report. All members present voted, "Yes."

2) **Committee of the Whole: 2/5/19**      **Re: Ordinance setting salary ranges for Fire Chief and Chief of Police and begin capital improvement planning**  
On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Sanker, it was moved to receive and file the committee report and to amend the agenda to add the Police and Fire Chief salary ordinance for a second reading. Mr. Bonsall stated having the second reading of the ordinance will allow the process to continue moving while waiting on additional information; comparable salaries were distributed at the Committee of the Whole meeting for review. Ms. Stevenson acknowledged speaking with the city of Troy; there is additional information she would like to review, but will still allow for the process to move forward.

All members present voted, "Yes."

3) **Economic Development and Community Engagement: 2/12/19**      **Re: CRA Process per Ordinance 18-2009**

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the committee report.

Ms. Stevenson acknowledged that these committee meetings are typically televised; this meeting was not, so as to create a safe environment for discussion with the company and their legal counsel.

All members present voted, "Yes."

### I) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

- 1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to hear the second and third readings of the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

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

## **SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS**

- 1) RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE NORWOOD ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM.

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to hear the second and third readings of the resolution. All members present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Thompson expressed his support for having two readings in one night; there is excitement in the community about this program. Ms. Stevenson also expressed her excitement about the project and noted that City Hall will qualify as a city property that may be adopted to help "polish the gem."

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

## **J) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO, AMENDED AND RESTATED MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Mr. Bonsall stated this is an identical agreement with other municipalities throughout Hamilton County. Ms. Stevenson did not receive a copy of Exhibit A, and requests that members of Council receive a copy prior to voting on the ordinance.

Mrs. Laake called for a brief recess so that copies of the exhibit may be made for members of Council. Council returned from recess.

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."

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

- 2) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE-SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A 60 MONTH CONTRACT, UNDER THE STATE BID PURCHASE PROGRAM, WITH CINCINNATI BELL TELEPHONE, LLC FOR CERTAIN TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

- 3) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT, UNDER STATE BID PURCHASE PROGRAM, WITH MILLENNIUM BUSINESS SYSTEMS FOR THE LEASE OF PRINTERS FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD AUDITOR'S OFFICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to hear the first reading of the ordinance.

Ms. Stevenson stated this request is to resolve an issue with the process of printing payroll. Mrs. Laake asked the Financial Supervisor if she had reviewed this item, but was unable to answer; Mr. Bonsall stated this is for three printers in the Auditor's office.

All members present voted, "Yes."

- 4) ORDINANCE REPEALING NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES CHAPTER 549, TITLED "WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moore stated the State Legislature recently passed a substituted House Bill on firearms, which impacts municipalities; it preempts any local law regarding weapons and firearms. Norwood tries to model state code; not repealing this chapter will setup civil rights claims for anyone inconvenienced by city regulations regarding firearms. Mr. Moore is asking Council to repeal section 549 of Norwood's code tonight by suspending the rules and hearing all three readings of the ordinance; taking this action tonight will also allow the current code to be included with codification in books at City Hall and on-line. Mr. Moore also noted that the Norwood Police may still cite under State code.

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

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

**5) ORDINANCE SETTING SALARY RANGES FOR FIRE CHIEF AND CHIEF OF POLICE.**

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to hear the second reading of the ordinance.

Mr. Bonsall stated he had a discussion with Mr. Moore regarding things in the ordinance and the current contract with regard to longevity; he does not know what concerns were expressed by Assistant Fire Chief McCabe. Mrs. Laake spoke about an email everyone received from Assistant Fire Chief McCabe; he was unable to attend the meeting.

All members present voted, "Yes."

**INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS**

There were no introductory readings or resolutions.

**K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Mrs. Laake opened the floor for questions for Mayor Williams. Mr. Bonsall asked for an update on the former Quality Inn; Mayor Williams stated the potential new owners are still waiting to hear about financing. Mr. Bonsall asked about the Paycor earnings tax agreement for the new development; Mayor Williams stated there is no change to the previous agreement. Mayor Williams confirmed there are questions about the progress of the new building; he is waiting on a reply from Paycor.

**L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**1) Pastor Sonny James Re: Community**

Mr. James, of Hopkins Avenue, addressed Council regarding issues facing the community. Mr. James congratulated groups and organizations in Norwood for recognizing African Americans during the month of February. Mr. James stated he had the privilege to attend the event at Xavier University; he was excited to see fresh ideas, energy, and positivity spreading throughout the community. Mr. James also requested that the city is fair to everyone and includes everybody.

**2) Joshua Stoxen Re: Norwood CDC**

Mr. Stoxen, of Cleveland Avenue, addressed Council regarding Norwood's CDC; he referenced Mayor Williams' idea at a previous Council meeting, with regard to Norwood having their own form of 3CDC. Mr. Stoxen spoke of the impact of Cincinnati's 3CDC, and the permanent displacement of families in Over the Rhine; Norwood is a microcosm of the nation with regard to diversity. Mr. Stoxen stated development can be done without economic exclusion.

**3) Dana Boll Re: Parking/Paving Ordinance**

Ms. Boll, of Elsmere Avenue, addressed Council regarding a parking and paving ordinance. Ms. Boll expressed her concern about a neighbor wanting to pave most of their backyard to create a parking pad for a 4-unit building. Ms. Boll wants her backyard to be a residential use and not commercial; she doesn't want the back yard of her neighbors to be storage of cars. Ms. Boll was surprised to learn that a building permit was not required for a driveway and a parking pad. Mrs. Hanrahan stated this matter was discussed in committee and then sent to the Planning Commission, where it died and never came back to Council for consideration; Mrs. Hanrahan discussed the complications she faced as a Councilmember to get items on the Planning Commission agenda. Mrs. Hanrahan believes it is important to preserve our neighborhoods. Mr. Breadon believes a permit must be pulled for a curb-cut. Mayor Williams agrees it is wrong that the matter died and agrees that Ms. Boll raises a valid point with her concern. Ms. Boll also mentioned that all of the curb-cuts on Elsmere are off by about nine inches. Mr. Bonsall referenced Norwood Codified Ordinances 909.03, which states this should require a permit. Mrs. Hanrahan asked for the Clerk of Council's office to get documentation that was sent to the Planning Commission regarding this issue from 2016/2017.

**4) Mary C. Miller / Angela Pancella Re: Quality of Life Plan**

Ms. Miller, of Hopkins Avenue, and Ms. Pancella, of Franklin Avenue, addressed Council regarding the Quality of Life Plan. Ms. Miller stated she was encouraged by the involvement of the young people in the community. Ms. Miller hopes this is seen as a parallel effort to move the city forward; people are stepping forward to help the city and are creating a positive force for Norwood. Ms. Miller stated the plan received a lot of support from the Local Initiative Support Corporation; they were very privileged to have their support.

Ms. Pancella stated Woven Oak has been the lead agency for this plan, and Community Building Institute also assisted with data gathering; the process has been a planning process and is now moving into implementation. There will be a public meeting on implementation on March 6, 2019 6:30pm –

8pm, in the Upper Studio at Vineyard Central on Lincoln and Carter Avenues. Mrs. Hanrahan stated the presentation was very nice and impressive; although the ideas were not all new, they did accomplish great organization and the ability to bring in a large number of volunteers.

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

Mr. Thompson brought up the topic of water rates and whether or not anything can be done regarding the rate increase that is above 3.5%. Ms. Stevenson stated Council has no say in the rate increases, as it is determined by the Safety-Service Director; the rationale for the increase above 3.5% was that the city has to save up for repairs that may be needed. Mayor Williams stated the State Auditors are looking at the MSD fund; Norwood sends around \$5 million each year to the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD). A Federal judge agreed to speak with Mayor Williams about the matter with MSD; he is looking at ways to legally use the funds, including the option of offering a discount to rate-payers. Mayor Williams stated valid points and concerns are being raised.

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to place the matter of water rates into Committee of the Whole. All members present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Bonsall stated Committee of the Whole also needs to meet to discuss capital improvements; removing employee salaries from the Water Fund is in the Financial Recovery Plan. Council will also need to have the Financial Recovery Plan before the end of March. Mrs. Hanrahan stated she agrees with Mr. Bonsall and Mr. Thompson about the water rate increase discussion; having this discussion will allow Council and residents to have a better understanding of the rates. Mr. Clark asks for the Safety-Service Director to include a list of the improvements.

Mrs. Laake announced a Committee of the Whole meeting to take place on February 19, 2019, at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; agenda items include reviewing the capital improvement plan, water rates discussion, and a potential first draft of the Financial Recovery Plan.

Mrs. Laake will bring the changes to the Standing Rules of Council back to Council for approval with the language that was prepared for the process of submitting and editing minutes, as well as section 5 and section 6 pertaining to executive session.

#### **N) NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Hanrahan placed the matter of short-term rentals into the Housing, Health, and Safety Committee.

Ms. Stevenson announced a Ward 1 Community Meeting that will take place on February 20, 2019, from 7pm-8pm at the Norwood Community Center; a significant portion of the time is designed for residents to talk about what is going on in Ward 1, the impact of the community plan, and feedback.

#### **O) COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **1) Letter from Mayor Thomas F. Williams**

**Re: Mayor's Court Fines - January 2019**

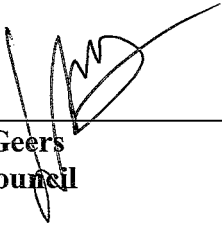
On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All present voted, "Yes."


#### **Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S**

There were no absent members.

#### **R) ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Joseph S. Geers  
Clerk of Council

  
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Donna M. Laake  
President of Council