



Council Chambers

July 10, 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, 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 an ordinance to change appropriations and allow Amy Graham with the American Heart Association to make a presentation following the approval of minutes. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs. Laake commented on a "job well done" with regard to the lengthy minutes.

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2018 meeting, as if read. All present voted, "Yes".

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

**Amy Graham Re: American Heart Association / 2018 Mission Lifeline Performance
Achievement Award to the Norwood Fire Department**

Ms. Graham stated the American Heart Association realizes and recognize the critical life-saving role of EMS care that is provided for heath-attack care. She stood before Council to present the Norwood Fire Department with the 2018 American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline Performance Award. The Norwood Fire Department was 1 of only 48 EMS agencies in Ohio receiving the Performance Achievement Award in the state of Ohio; they received the bronze level award. To receive this level of award, they had to achieve 75% or greater compliance for each of the EMS quality measures for 3-9 months. Ms. Graham stated the American Heart Association wants to take the opportunity to recognize the amount of lives the Norwood Fire Department has saved; they are "doing amazing work in the community." Chief Wallace thanked Ms. Graham for the award and stated the award goes out to the dedication of those performing this type of work daily. Mrs. Hanrahan congratulated the Norwood Fire Department on receiving this award and was thankful for the opportunity of this award being presented at a Council meeting so that others are aware of the good things happening in the community.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were no standing committee reports.

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

There were no second or third readings of ordinances.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Bonsall stated this ordinance focuses on funds with more revenue than expected. Mr. Stith, Norwood Auditor, submits a certificate of estimated resources to the Hamilton County Auditor, projected estimates for each fund; it was looked at after six months, and realized we have more resources so changes to the funds were necessary. Mrs. Laake stated, per Mr. Stith, these changes are outside of the Fiscal Recovery Plan, so they do not require the approval of the Financial Planning and Supervision Commission.

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

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

There were no introductory readings of resolutions.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administrative reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Virginia Wallace

Re: Question regarding low-income housing

Mrs. Wallace had questions about property located at the corner of Mills and Carter Avenues; she had heard rumor that it was purchased by a member of Council to convert into low-income housing. Ms. Stevenson stated the property was purchased by Lydia's House, a non-profit organization; the co-founders are Norwood residents Meredith Owensby and Mary Ellen Mitchell. Mrs. Laake stated the property will be "transitional housing" for individuals to get back into the workforce until they can find their own place. Ms. Stevenson stated Lydia's House recently held an open house to talk about the project; they provide emergency housing for women and their children who are in crisis. Ms. Stevenson stated she is happy to follow-up with Mrs. Wallace to share more about the project; she has volunteered with the organization and has also donated to their cause. Ms. Stevenson confirmed that she does not own that property. Mr. Bonsall stated this highlights how misinformation gets spread; Mr. Bonsall appreciates Mrs. Wallace bringing this up, but he confirmed that he, too, does not own this property. Mr. Sanker confirmed that Lydia's House also owns other property on Mills Avenue, and asked Mayor Williams for his comments on the matter. Mayor Williams stated someone called to complain about the murals painted on wood outside of the building, stating they were illegal signs; he can confirm that a lot of money is being invested in fixing the property. Mrs. Laake stated this will be an asset to the city.

Pastor Sonny James

Re: Community

Mr. James, of Hopkins Avenue, began by acknowledging a family in Norwood who has experienced a tragedy and many of the youth assembled together at the high school; he encourages everyone in Norwood to embrace the young people of the community during this time. Mr. James also spoke about the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training that took place on June 30th, which was hosted by Elevations Enrichment; the next class is July 21st, but it is already full. There is a class on August 11th, in which 18 individuals have already signed up to attend; Mr. James would like to make a presentation on the training at the August Council meeting. Mr. James stated there are only seven days in the month of July in which activities are not scheduled for the youth in Norwood. To contact Kirsten James, director of Elevations, she can be reached at kjames.elevations@gmail.com or (513)485-4675. Mr. James also stated that Mayor Williams had previously requested Council to ask more questions; he commends Council for seeking clarity at the previous Council meeting.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Hanrahan asked Mayor Williams for an update on the outstanding claims from Benovations. Mayor Williams stated he was told the city would receive a check by Monday, and they did not; he will be "patient and diplomatic." Mrs. Laake stated she received a call back from Marissa at Benovations; Mayor Williams did receive an invoice that Mr. Schlotman spoke of, but they did not receive the C9 payment to take them up to June 2018. Mrs. Laake also stated the vendor has not yet received the information for 2018. Mrs. Hanrahan stated Mr. Schlotman said he would send copies of the contract; she has received nothing yet.

Mr. Sanker commented on the letter from Mayor Williams regarding the high grass at the former US Paying Card Co. building; he thanked the crews for getting out there and cutting the grass. Mayor Williams stated he thinks it was a citizen who helped to get things moving with regard to the owner finally cutting the grass. Mr. Bonsall asked about a vacant property registration for this building; Mayor Williams stated if they are marketing the building they do not need one, as it is his understanding. Mayor Williams will contact the Law Department to check further into this matter.

Ms. Stevenson asked about the market garden ordinance that was placed into Committee of the Whole; Mrs. Laake stated it has been difficult to get an agreeable meeting date with both Mr. Stoker and Mr. Orosz, but the matter will be discussed in a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, July 23rd, at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Sanker commended the Fireworks Committee on a job well done; Waterworks pool is getting a lot of use this year with the hot summer. Mr. Bonsall also commended Mr. Breadon on his role with the fireworks celebration.

Mrs. Laake followed up with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding the Safe Routes to School project; Adleta Construction was awarded the contract on June 28th. Construction will start in early September, following Labor Day; there will be a pre-construction meeting to take place in August. The bids came in over the estimates but were still under the cap; this is still no cost to the city. This project will focus around Williams, Sharpsburg, Norwood View, and the high school; this includes the placement of speed humps, lights, crosswalks, signage, and other upgrades.

Mrs. Hanrahan thanked Larry McCafferty for the letter he wrote to the city regarding Mr. Grubb in the Water Department and his professionalism during Mr. McCafferty's emergency. Mrs. Hanrahan also

wanted to thank Pete Tepe for his assistance in this matter; he made sure the matter was taken care of in less than 15 minutes. Mrs. Hanrahan requested that letters of thanks are written from the Clerk of Council's office, including a copy of the email from Mr. McCafferty.

Mr. Bonsall also thanked Mr. Tepe and Norwood Public Works for their assistance with prepping the park for Shakespeare in the Park; grass was mowed, trash cans were made available, and everything else that was needed for the over 200 individuals in attendance. Ms. Stevenson announced the next Shakespeare in the Park will take place at Upper Millcrest Park at 7pm on August 1st, and will be a presentation of Romeo and Juliet; all are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Hanrahan stated everyone should be working as a team; she had heard of some posts and arguments taking place on Facebook regarding changes to the Table of Organization for the Norwood Police Department. Council and the Administration should be supporting city departments and should be careful of what we are doing and saying. Mrs. Hanrahan asked Mrs. Laake about having a contract discussion in executive session at the next meeting or if it is allowable on the open floor; Mrs. Laake replied by confirming contract negotiations are one of the reasons for entering executive session. Mayor Williams asked Mrs. Hanrahan for more clarification on her comments; Mrs. Hanrahan stated it does the city no good to be fighting with these departments. Mayor Williams confirmed that he did not make any of those posts; he stated he came to Council in June and went to the Civil Service Commission to reduce rank. This action will allow for more patrolmen through attrition, which was the intent. Mayor Williams stated no one asked where the numbers came from; in a document dated March 26, 2018, from the Chief of Police that says they should reduce numbers to match exactly what he is currently asking. Mayor Williams stated this will not only add more officers on the street, it will also open the possibility for officers to work in CIS. This had to be done before any vacancies in the department. Ohio Revised Code states rank can be reduced for financial reasons; Norwood is currently in Fiscal Emergency. Mayor Williams stated he agrees with the Police Chief's idea of hiring more civilian personnel. Mayor Williams stated this is an effort to try to maintain service, but with lower operating costs; the city will never get out of financial issues without changing things. The letter he sent to members of Council is public record; that was his intent of sending the letter. Mrs. Hanrahan asked about the contract recently signed with the Table of Organization; Mayor Williams replied by stating he had to go through the Civil Service Commission to eliminate it first, per Ohio Revised Code. Contract negotiations will start later this year; a study will be done. Mayor Williams stated the number of reductions came from the Chief of Police, not from the Mayor's office. Mrs. Hanrahan stated she had heard the matter was not discussed with the Police Chief, that it was just done. Mrs. Hanrahan stated the city needs to work with the Police; if we want the city to survive, we need to work together. Mayor Williams stated he wants the city to be safe; he lives here and wants as many officers and firefighters on the street as he can get. His job is to reduce costs and that is what he is doing. Mr. Bonsall stated he posted some responses online to educate citizens on what Council, as elected officials, have to deal with. Mr. Bonsall stated the equipment our police officers have to use is a major driver for them wanting to leave to work at other police departments. Mr. Bonsall stated Norwood has been in Fiscal Watch more than any other municipality in the state of Ohio; the only reason the city isn't currently in Fiscal Watch is because it is in Fiscal Emergency. The next cuts will have to be the Community Center, the Health Department, or the pool; he thinks it is important for the public to be informed. Mr. Bonsall stated he is encouraged by this Council; as a Council, they each care about the city and want to pave streets and repair parks. Although the Fiscal Recovery Plan does reduce the number of police and fire, it does add \$2 million in a street fund over four years to be used to pave streets. Mr. Bonsall stated he appreciates the police and fire departments and the great work that they do, but the city cannot continue to survive by going in the same direction. Mrs. Hanrahan stated this wasn't a fiscal speech, but rather, that Council should be held to a higher standard and should respect those working in the city who disagrees with Council. Mayor Williams stated now is not a good time to be Police Chief, Fire Chief, Council, or Mayor; these are tough times and each person/group defends his/her position but someone has to make tough decisions. Everybody has their job; bargaining units, the police and fire chief, the Mayor, and Council. Mayor Williams stated he respects those who are trying and that everyone is doing what they believe in.

Ms. Stevenson stated she likes being a councilmember; she has learned a lot about where she lives. Ms. Stevenson asked Council to consider having a Committee of the Whole meeting with legal counsel to educate the public and Council about negotiations, arbitration, and fact-finding, and to create a flowchart regarding the law that governs what our state and municipality provides for. Mr. Clark agreed and stated it is a wonderful idea. On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss what it means to negotiate contracts, with outside legal counsel invited to attend. Mrs. Hanrahan asked about the amount of information Mr. Moore will be able to provide, before paying outside counsel to attend the meeting; Mayor Williams stated Mr. Moore would probably want outside counsel present. Mrs. Laake stated she will check with Mr. Moore about availability for all parties to attend. All members voted, "Yes."

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson announced the next Parks, Recreation, Streets, and Infrastructure Committee meeting will take place July 11, at 7pm, in Council Chambers. The items for discussion will include basketball hoops at Waterworks and the Adopt-a-Park packet.

Ms. Stevenson announced the next Economic Development and Community Engagement Committee meeting will take place on August 2, at 7pm, in Council Chambers. The items for discussion will include an update on several goal areas, new opportunities with Hamilton County’s Development Corporation, and an update from the Quality of Life steering committee.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter from Mayor Williams Re: Request for Committee of the Whole meeting

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter and send a letter back to the Mayor’s office, saying there are no funds available to address these concerns, and that they will be addressed at the next Fiscal Recover Plan meeting that will take place in September.

Mr. Thompson asked Mayor Williams his reason for this request; Mayor Williams replied by stating the idea of the letter was to address items that are issues of complaint. The letter is a way to reiterate that the city has no money. Mayor Williams mentioned the fact that Norwood has brought in 3,000 jobs and people ask, “Where is the money?” It is time to start addressing things head-on. The issue with half of Section Avenue being resurfaced was a way for Cincinnati to make Norwood look foolish. The intent of the letter is for Council to say there is no money. Mr. Thompson acknowledged Mayor Williams raising good points, and stated these items should go into a capital improvement plan for the city. The capital improvement plan should be a document that runs parallel with the Financial Recovery Plan; these things can’t be ignored and need a long-term plan.

Mrs. Laake stated a capital improvements plan is a requirement within the Financial Recovery Plan; we are not there yet. Eventually a plan will be developed, as it is required, with the State Auditors. Mr. Thompson stated the importance of residents realizing this and to also see Council’s commitment; this will continue with future Councils to follow, and improve upon, the current plan.

Ms. Stevenson asked if there are steps to take in discussion to prepare for creating a plan. Ms. Stevenson requests an amendment to split the original motion; to “receive and file” today, and then consider writing a letter that expresses the interest of Council to begin discussing a comprehensive plan. Mr. Bonsall agreed to amend his motion; Mr. Thompson agreed to amend his second to the motion. Mr. Bonsall stated everything on the Mayor’s list is important. Mrs. Laake stated she can contact the State Auditors regarding the capital improvement plan; the next Financial Planning and Supervision Committee meeting is scheduled for August 21st.

All present voted, “Yes.”

2) Letter from Mayor Williams Re: Mayor’s Court fines for the month of June 2018

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All present voted, “Yes.”

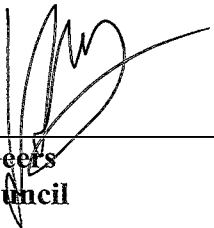
Mrs. Laake reminded everyone there is no regularly scheduled second Council meeting in July, due to the Norwood Day Parade; the next regularly scheduled meeting will take place August 14th. She also reminded everyone about Norwood Day at Coney on July 25th.

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

There were no absent members.

Q) ADJOURNMENT

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



Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council



Donna M. Laake
President of Council