



Council Chambers

August 27, 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

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 Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: remove the August 13, 2019 meeting minutes. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1) August 13, 2019
(removed from the agenda)

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

(all requests to address Council on agenda items took place during consideration of Resolution 2 on the agenda)

- 1) **Linda Sodaro** **Re: Water Resolutions**
Ms. Sodaro, of Sheridan Drive, thanked Mrs. Laake and Council for listening to the concerns of citizens. Ms. Sodaro believes the resolutions are a tentative first step in solving the problems with the water system; she is asking Council to pass the resolutions with a sense of urgency. Ms. Sodaro stated she recently spoke with an individual who lives across the street from the water towers who was not even aware of the situation; residents deserve to know what is going on with the water.

- 2) **Kate Hand** **Re: Water Resolutions**
Mrs. Hand, of Adams Avenue, directed her comments toward Mr. Sanker, since he is her ward representative. Mrs. Hand stated she has read all the paperwork regarding the safety of the water and she understands the water is safe; the reports provided by Mayor Williams at the previous Council meeting mean nothing when operating with a faulty system. Mrs. Hand stated the water and sewage systems are in danger of failure and need to be expertly addressed. Mrs. Hand believes, despite what might have been good intentions, that the Administration has been over its head for a long time; this is not a problem to dump on the next Administration.

- 3) **Amy Wolfinbarger** **Re: Water Resolutions**
Ms. Wolfinbarger, of Carthage Avenue, is asking Council to vote in support of the water resolutions. Ms. Wolfinbarger is hopeful that newly elected councilmembers will take action beyond the 6-months outlined in the resolution. Ms. Wolfinbarger does not trust the current Administration's judgement or their ability to move forward in a productive manner. Ms. Wolfinbarger thanked Mrs. Hanrahan for her comments at the special meeting pertaining to the EPA, and she thanked all of Council for allowing her to speak at the meeting.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were no reports of standing committees of Council.

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

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

J) INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

- 1) RESOLUTION HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY VETERAN JEROME H. ROETTGENS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE ALLIED CAUSE IN WORLD WAR II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS AWARD OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR BY THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.

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

Mr. Sanker congratulated Mr. Roettgers on this award and honor and thanked him for his service; this is the highest award granted by France and is something that must be authorized by the President of France. Mr. Breadon also thanked Mr. Roettgers for his service. Mrs. Hanrahan congratulated Mr.

Roettgers on receiving this honor and also thanked him for his service. Mr. Bonsall thanked Mr. Roettgers for stepping up and serving his country. Mrs. Laake stated Mr. Roettgers still lives in Norwood, he has seven children, 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren; Mrs. Laake attended the ceremony and stated this resolution is an opportunity for Norwood's government to extend their appreciation of his service. Mr. Roettgers stated in March 20, 1943, little did he know that when he boarded a bus right out of high school, that he was going to see the world for free. Mr. Roettgers was presented a copy of the resolution and received a standing ovation by all in Council Chambers.

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

2) RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PROPOSAL FROM GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD'S WATER SYSTEM FOR SIX MONTHS.

Mrs. Laake stated she talked with Mayor Williams; he does not want to ask GCWW to take over and he would like to wait on the report from the EPA. Mrs. Laake confirmed the Norwood Health Department actually collects 20 bacteria samples throughout the city; the lab services are completed at GCWW, not at the Cincinnati Health Department. Mrs. Laake also confirmed that two additional water tests are completed by Norwood.

(requests to address Council on agenda items were heard)

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

Mr. Thompson stated Norwood will not have an operator of record in 4 months, as there will be a new Administration taking office in January; it is good forward thinking for Council to pass this resolution and create a transition of this role. Mrs. Hanrahan stated the city should not wait until December to start looking for a new operator of record; the resolution looks to find someone for this position and will provide for options in January. Mr. Bonsall stated this resolution is bigger than a water tower issue; this addresses concerns with the overall water system. Actions from this resolution will carry into the next mayoral administration. This resolution is just asking for information and does not commit the city to anything. Mrs. Laake confirmed with Mayor Williams that a meeting will take place between the Administration, GCWW, and EPA; a date for the meeting has not yet been set or announced.

Mr. Sanker stated, based on the tone of everyone's' comments, that it is only a matter of time to replace the current operator of record; Council is trying to "turn the ship around now and go in another direction with different personnel," but Mr. Sanker does not believe that now is the time to replace anyone. Mr. Sanker believes Council should not look for a new operator of record until the EPA report is released; the previous tone emulates a feeling of Council expressing their power. Mr. Sanker agrees a long-term change will be needed, but since the city is already working with the EPA and GCWW, now is not the time. Mr. Thompson stated there are a lot of reasons for needing a replacement; he sees no reason to put this off, since the resolution is only seeking information to help with decisions once the report is released. Mr. Thompson stated this is not about Council exercising power, it is about getting someone with expertise in the position to handle the problem.

Mr. Bonsall stated the city of Cincinnati has offered to loan a professional to handle the water situation in Norwood; this is an opportunity for everyone to learn about the water system and it is an investment in the city. No one will lose their job with the passage of this resolution or if a new operator of record is hired. Mr. Bonsall stated this should be celebrated, as it will take one thing off the Safety-Service Director's plate; this action should have taken place years ago. Mr. Sanker stated he believes most of the comments just made are based on speculation and not fact.

Ms. Stevenson asked about the reference to Dixon Engineering within the resolution; Mrs. Laake replied by saying Norwood has been using Dixon Engineering to complete all of the repairs. Mr. Moore stated the specific clause in the resolution reflects the fact that work is currently being done and that Council is interested in moving beyond what is already in place. Ms. Stevenson inquired about Council getting a copy of the final report; Mrs. Laake replied by saying the report will be released in the near future and will become public record. Mr. Thompson believes the "whereas" clauses identify what has been done and what the city is currently doing. Ms. Stevenson brought to Council's attention the action steps that were identified in the letter from Mr. Duhaney; Mr. Thompson stated the steps outlined in the letter were a suggestion. Mr. Bonsall agreed with Ms. Stevenson that the action steps recommended by Mr. Duhaney should be addressed, but he doesn't believe they have to be completed in sequential order. The city can work on multiple action steps at one time. Mr. Bonsall stated there is no reason to delay because of an action step; this resolution addresses step #5. Mrs. Hanrahan mentioned that this resolution is just a proposal; it is best to start this process now, as it may take months before this comes to fruition. Mr. Breadon sees no issue with looking at costs; he is curious as to what other credentials are being looked for in a new water purveyor. Ms. Stevenson stated she is not opposed to making improvements to the water system and

she appreciates the opportunity to discuss the matter further. Ms. Stevenson also thanked the three individuals who came to address Council on this topic. Ms. Stevenson stated Council's level of discussion and education of the water system varies; Council should be cautious and thoughtful, as a body, that a choice isn't being made without being aware of the ramifications. Ms. Stevenson confirmed that she has forwarded some insight regarding the water system to the Clerk of Council's office for other members of Council to review.

Mr. Bonsall stated he appreciates the four employees at Norwood Public Works who are experienced with working on Norwood's water system, however, there is no knowledge of how other water systems should operate or the political will of leadership to want to make sure Council is aware of the funding gaps that are there for the system; multiple letters between the EPA and Norwood mentioned that there is no money to address the issues. Mr. Bonsall stated that if Council was aware of the situation, money could have been allocated and improvements could have been made. Mr. Bonsall does not believe a direct report of the current operator of record is the answer; Norwood deserves someone who knows what a world-class water system looks like.

Ms. Stevenson mentioned ORC 743.08 and Council's ability to investigate; this was mentioned by others at a previous Council meeting. This section of ORC discusses the creation of an investigative committee; the committee members do not have to be members of Council. Ms. Stevenson requests that all Council members look at the same information and trust the resources that are being relied upon. Ms. Stevenson stated there are things that need to be investigated; there are still some gaps in the resolution with regard to what Council is asking for, and by who. Mr. Bonsall reminded members of Council that they can vote for having three readings and vote against the resolution; if there aren't three readings today, Special Council meetings will have to be scheduled. Ms. Stevenson recognizes the importance of moving this along but noted the proposal that is received might not be as meaningful as some may think. Mr. Thompson stating this resolution is about seeking information so that Council can make better decisions when the time comes.

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

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to pass the resolution. Mr. Sanker voted, "No," all other members present voted, "Yes."

3) RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PROPOSAL FROM GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS FOR LONG TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD'S WATER SYSTEM.

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

Mr. Bonsall stated this resolution is to seek information; GCWW will not take any action without a resolution passed by Council. Mr. Bonsall stated GCWW manages the water systems for other municipalities. Mrs. Hanrahan stated Council needs to think long-term; before any decisions are made Council needs a cost comparison. This will involve a lot of research and data collection, and the resolution is a starting point.

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

INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES

There were no introductory readings of ordinances.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administration reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1) Dan Galligan

Re: Mayoral Debate and Candidate Meet & Greet

Mr. Galligan, of Poplar Street, addressed Council on the issue of the upcoming mayoral debate and meet and greet for other candidates appearing on the ballot in November. The event will take place at the Norwood High School mini-auditorium on September 5, 2019; the meet and greet will begin at 6pm and the debate will begin at 7pm. If anyone has debate questions they would like to submit, please forward them to BrandonAtwood66@gmail.com. Mr. Bonsall stated he appreciates Mr. Galligan spearheading this event; he recommends that residents do reach out to Brandon Atwood with their debate questions. Mr. Breadon thanked Mr. Galligan and also noted that Mr. Atwood is accepting questions via Facebook Messenger. Mrs. Laake announced the Norwood Chamber of Commerce invited the three mayoral candidates to their September 18th luncheon to answer questions.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Stevenson mentioned the previously suggested amendments that were made to the Standing Rules of Council; they haven't yet been adopted or voted on, even though the information has been sent to members of Council several times to review.

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to adopt the previously discussed changes to the Standing Rules of Council.

Mr. Bonsall stated he would like to see this added to the next meeting agenda. Mrs. Hanrahan also stated she would like to place it on the next agenda so Council can review the changes. Ms. Stevenson stated this will be the second time it has appeared on the agenda and asked members of Council to review the amended rules so that action may be taken; Ms. Stevenson agreed to withdraw her motion and Mr. Thompson agreed to withdraw his second to the motion.

Mr. Sanker asked Mr. Moore for an update on the former Quality Inn property; Mr. Moore replied by stating he had heard there are new owners.

Ms. Stevenson asked about an update on the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the Recreation Department spending from 2018; Mrs. Laake stated she will contact Mrs. Partin and Mr. Stith about attending the meeting. Mrs. Laake announced the Committee of the Whole meeting to take place on September 10, 2019, at 6:45pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Bonsall reminded everyone that the City-Wide Street Sale will take place September 6 – 7; permits are still required but the fee is waived. Residents are to contact the Treasurer's office with questions.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson discussed the Keep Norwood Cool event that took place, which was led by Dana Boll; this event focused on how Norwood could possibly connect with Wasson Way. This was a great event with a room full of creative people. Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Boll for organizing the event and he also thanked those who attended. Mrs. Hanrahan stated Ms. Boll did an outstanding job developing and moderating this event; it took place at no cost to the city. Mrs. Laake stated the purpose of the event was to gather information to share with the city of Norwood.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Tim Molony, Treasurer

Re: Bank Reconciliation

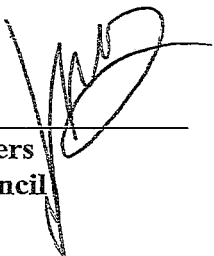
On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, "Yes."

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S


There were no absent members.

Q) ADJOURNMENT

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



Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council



Donna M. Laake
President of Council