



Council Chambers

March 26, 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, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Breadon. Mrs. Hanrahan was absent.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: remove the March 12, 2019 minutes; add an ordinance regarding the Financial Recovery Plan; add a communication regarding January and February monthly Treasurer reports; add a communication regarding January and February Earnings Tax reports; move the ESID communication from Mr. Moore to immediately follow amendment of the agenda; move the letter requesting executive session as the last communication for consideration. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(March 12, 2019 minutes were removed from the agenda)

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 of Council.

I) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SUCH PROPERTY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (as amended)

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

Ms. Stevenson asked about the potential vendor presenting to Council; Mr. Moore replied by stating the vendor is happy to meet with Council or Committee of the Whole. Mr. Moore is hoping to have the contract available for Council at the next meeting.

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

J) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES

1) ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE DETAILED FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Williams stated the city has been in constant contact with the Financial Supervisors; the plan must be passed, and it cannot put the city in debt. Mayor Williams deferred to Norwood Auditor Jim Stith to provide the numbers within the plan. Mr. Stith reviewed the assumptions, income, and expenses contained within the plan; a copy of the plan is available in the Clerk of Council's office. Mr. Stith stated his office and the State Auditors both created plans and then met and looked at the variances between the two plans; the plan represents Mayor Williams' desire for the city. According to the plan, Norwood is projected to have a positive fund balance of \$174,721 at the end of 2019; the report also provides the projected balances for 2020 through 2023. Although the Capital Projects Plan is provided as attachment B, it is only a draft plan and is not a full commitment. Council has until the next Fiscal Emergency Commission meeting to approve the Capital Projects Plan.

Mr. Bonsall asked why it took so long for Council to receive the report; Mr. Stith replied by stating it is a long process. The Norwood Auditor's office started working on the plan in February; a draft was sent to State Auditors about three weeks ago. The State Auditors were not available to meet until last Monday; there were also several meetings that took place with Mr. Bonsall, as chairman of the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee. Once the data was pulled together, it was then sent to the Mayor's office; this was all driven by and organized by the state. The final meeting with Mayor

Williams, Mrs. Laake, and the Safety-Service Director took place yesterday; Mr. Stith received final copies from the State Auditors today. Mrs. Laake stated she spoke with Ms. Davis, who clarified that the plan must be passed in its entirety; Council cannot make changes to the plan tonight. Making any changes to the plan would not be in compliance. Mr. Stith verified that changes may still be made to the Capital Improvement Plan. The Capital Improvement Plan must be ready prior to the Financial Emergency meeting in early June. Mayor Williams stated the city cannot spend more money than what is coming in; any increase in expenses would cause the city to be non-compliant. The city will defend their position on the numbers that are submitted. Mayor Williams stated Mr. Stith has done an outstanding job. Mr. Sanker asked Mr. Stith if the numbers in the payroll keys in the plan are based upon the personnel numbers included in attachment A; Mr. Stith and Mrs. Laake confirmed this to be true.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Stith, but also expressed his frustration with only having one day to review and approve the plan; Mr. Thompson mentioned that last year, upon reviewing the plan for two hours, he discovered a \$900,000 error. Mr. Thompson does not believe Council is able to give the plan the attention it deserves; the plan is the most important Council can do to get the city on the right path. Mr. Bonsall raised the question of what Council is being asked to do tonight; Mrs. Laake replied by stating Council is being asked to pass the plan prior to the end of March. Mr. Clark confirmed that money has been changed in the Capital Improvement Plan for parks; Mayor Williams stated by not "pigeon-holing" money, Council will have the flexibility to move funds where needed.

Ms. Stevenson raised the idea of moving money that is saved when a bid comes in less than what was projected, as a way of saving those funds for the unexpected and setting aside money for matching grants; Mr. Stith replied by stating under Ohio Revised Code, municipalities cannot create a reserve or "rainy day" fund. Mr. Stith did, however, describe the process by which a reserve balance account can be created by adjusting the certificate of estimated resources and the cash position report; it is not, however, a rainy day fund. Mayor Williams stated a reserve fund has been discussed for years; it is difficult to put that money away.

Mr. Bonsall thanked Mr. Stith, Mayor Williams, and Mrs. Laake for their work on the plan. He also expressed his frustration with the short amount of time Council was given to review the plan. Mr. Bonsall believes the plan does express the intent of Council. In 2016 and 2017, none of the money in the street fund was utilized for street repaving. In 2018, this Council decided to remove several employee salaries from the street funds; 2018 ended with \$535,000 in the street fund. There will be over \$1,000,000 in 2019 available in the street fund to repave streets. Mr. Bonsall stated this is only possible because of the work of this Council; this Council is setting up future elected officials for success with this plan.

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. Mr. Thompson voted, "No," all other members present voted, "Yes," With only five members voting to suspend the rules, the motion fails.

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

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

Mr. Stith stated all members of Council should have received two emails from him containing copies of the Fiscal Emergency Plan; his cell number was included in those emails. Mr. Stith asked that if anyone has questions, to please give him a call.

Mr. Breadon stepped out of Council Chambers.

Mr. Thompson stated he will consider hearing the third reading tonight, since there are no other meeting dates that will work for enough members of Council prior to the established deadline. Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Thompson for the noble move, and stated he understands Mr. Thompson's feelings; he appreciates Mr. Thompson's cooperation. Mayor Williams stated it was a long process to get the report and apologized for the tardiness.

Mr. Breadon returned to Council Chambers.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to reconsider the ordinance and 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. Bonsall, it was moved to pass the ordinance.

Mr. Bonsall confirmed that the staffing levels in all departments reflect the same levels from the previous plan.

All members present voted, "Yes."

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

There were no introductory readings of resolutions.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administration reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1) Dani Isaacsohn Re: Community conversation between Duke Energy President and Norwood residents

Mr. Isaacsohn addressed Council regarding an advisory board meeting that is taking place with the new President of Duke Energy and small groups of neighboring communities; tomorrow night there will be a meeting taking place involving discussions with resident of Norwood, Oakley, and Evanston, at New Bethel Baptist Church, beginning at 6pm. Mrs. Laake stated she plans on attending the meeting.

2) Pastor Sonny James Re: Community

Mr. James, of Hopkins Avenue, addressed Council on matters within the community; he commended the Law Department for bringing an individual to Council to talk about doing things to take our community to the next level. Mr. James wants to know who made the decision to wait until the last minute to provide the Financial Recovery Plan to Council and he encourages members of Council to “stay bold.”

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake provided an update on the retiree healthcare plan; a third notice has been sent to those who have still not replied. The money that was appropriated for the plan will be on target. The administrative committee is taking their work very seriously. Mrs. Laake thanked the Auditor’s office for their help with verifying dates of employment, and she thanked Mr. Moore for providing legal opinions.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Breadon thanked Mr. Stith and Mayor Williams for their work on the Financial Recovery Plan. Mr. Breadon read an announcement that has been posted for Norwood Police Officer testing; the test is taking place April 3rd, in the Norwood High School Cafeteria, beginning at 6pm.

Mr. Thompson announced a Parks, Streets, Recreation, and Infrastructure Committee meeting that will take place April 9th, in Council Chambers, from 6:15pm – 7:15pm.

Mr. Bonsall announced Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will have teams available to help cleanup the Norwood Lateral; the cleanup will begin at the Seymour Avenue ODOT Public Works garage, at 1400 Seymour Avenue, on April 13th, at 9am. Training and supplies will be provided. The Safety-Service Director has stated a Public Works crew will also be available to assist; Public Works has been cleaning trash along the lateral and it already looks better. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is a good opportunity to help clean the community; United Dairy Farmers is a presenting sponsor of the event. Ms. Stevenson stated a Facebook event titled “State Roadway Cleanup” has been created for this event and includes a survey link; users can check a box for the Norwood Lateral. Mr. Bonsall stated 56% of the votes are for the Norwood Lateral; the first 200 people to register on Keep Cincinnati Beautiful website will receive a ticket to the Cincinnati Zoo.

Ms. Stevenson announced Norwood Cleanup Week begins March 30th, with a Montgomery Road cleanup that starts with everyone meeting in front of Norwood City Hall at 9am. On March 31st, between 9am – 8pm, residents are asked to do something on their street. April 6th has been designated as a park cleanup day throughout the city, with anyone interested meeting at Victory Park at 9am to pick up supplies.

Ms. Stevenson announced a Block Captain meeting taking place March 30th; please contact Ms. Stevenson at l Stevenson@norwood-ohio.com for additional information.

Ms. Stevenson announced the Implementation Team meeting on April 3rd, beginning at 6:30pm, taking place at Zion United Church of Christ.

Ms. Stevenson announced the second Ward 1 Community Council meeting taking place at the Norwood Community Center, on March 28th from 7pm – 8pm; these meetings will take place regularly on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Ms. Stevenson announced an Economic Development and Community Engagement Committee meeting taking place April 4, in Council Chambers, beginning at 7pm.

Mr. Clark stated he has received questions about the dates for the city-wide street sale; Mrs. Laake stated the sales will take place May 3rd and 4th and September 6th and 7th.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Department of Commerce Re: Objections to Renewal of Liquor Permit

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to receive and file the letter.

Mr. Sanker stated any nuisance establishments must be submitted to Council and the Law Department to file a liquor license renewal objection. The Clerk of Council's office will send an email to department heads asking if they object to the renewal of any current liquor licenses.

All members present voted, "Yes."

2) Tim Molony, Norwood Treasurer Re: Monthly Reports for January/February 2019

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

3) Chuck Barlow, Tax Commissioner Re: Earnings Tax Reports for January/February 2019

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

4) Keith Moore, Norwood Law Director Re: ESID Project

(letter was read immediately following the amendment of the agenda)

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to invite Chris Jones to address Council. All members present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Jones, who is with the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance, stated next month he will be presenting the second project through Norwood's ESID and provided an explanation of the Energy Special Improvement (ESID). PACE financing is special assessment financing that utilizes private funds; it is secured by a special assessment that is levied by the municipality. Mr. Jones stated CDK Global utilized PACE financing; the next project is Encore Technologies on Forest Avenue. Encore Technologies is a data server business; they have a need for energy efficiency. An ESID meeting will be called and then the matter will appear before Council for the levying of the assessment; this does not involve any city funds and allows the city to basically act as a pass-through. The Ohio ESID statute does also allow for single-family home-owners to participate, however, it is a "high volume and different animal." Legal counsel will provide a new plan to the ESID with the residential construct. The minimum project size for a business to participate is around \$50,000. Mr. Moore stated there is nothing for the city to do except for approving the property owner's right to pay a higher tax rate for the cost of borrowing money; all of the work is completed prior to going to the ESID Board.

5) Mayor Thomas Williams Re: Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to enter into executive session for the reasons stated in the Mayor's letter ("to prepare for, conduct, or review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment"). All members present voted, "Yes."

Council entered Executive Session.

Council returned from Executive Session.

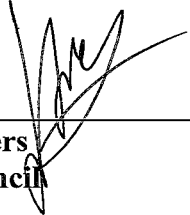
Ms. Stevenson, now serving as President Pro-Tem, acknowledged that Mrs. Laake was not feeling well and left Council Chambers prior to the completion of executive session.

Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

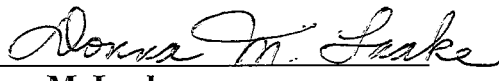
On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to excuse Mrs. Hanrahan's absence. All present voted, "Yes."

R) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Clark, 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