



NORWOOD CITY COUNCIL
Norwood Community Center
1810 Courtland Ave- Bottom Floor
Norwood, OH 45212
January 12, 2021
7:30 p.m.

A) CALL TO ORDER

B) PRAYER

C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council for the City of Norwood met in regular session on the above date with Mr. Ken Miracle Presiding as President. The meeting opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

D) ROLL CALL

All members present.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

The President noted amendments needed to the agenda as follows: There is a new attachment for item m1. On motion by Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Breadon it was moved to amend the agenda as stated. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None

G) VETO OVERRIDE

- 1) RESOLUTION EXPRESSING COUNCIL'S OBJECTION TO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF THE NORWOOD COMMUNICATION CENTER, DISPATCH SERVICES, 911 SERVICES, AND STATUS AS A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) WITHOUT EXPRESS COUNCIL APPROVAL

On motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Geraci, it was moved to override the veto. Mr. Thompson noted that a resolution is when the council acts in a single voice but it is not legally binding. He would like to see council back up the original resolution. Roll was called. All members present except for Mr. Breadon voted yes. Mr. Breadon abstained. Motion passed.

H) PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

I) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mayor Victor Schneider presented a proclamation regarding Helen T. Geraci. The Mayor noted that he grew up with the Geraci family and that Helen and her husband were steadfast in the community and great role models. He read the proclamation.

Tom Williams who lives at 2509 Moundview Dr. addressed council. He noted that over time many communities that had their own dispatches have closed them and joined E911. He joined the police in 1988. He provided some history on the current dispatch in Norwood. He had been in charge of the communications center at one time and stayed in operation even with issues with funding. The people in the communication center are dedicated and proud operators. Norwood has maintained independence through keeping our own agencies. He wants to show new residents that Norwood is worth fighting for. Some independence will be lost if the communications center closes and asks that

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any closure wait until the administration has heard from the residents of Norwood and all other ideas considered.

Brian Schuh who lives at 4515 Allison St. #12449 addressed the council. He relayed a recent event wherein he was accused of causing an alarm and annoyance. He was in a bar and left with his money when some people followed him out. He inadvertently brandished a combat brand flame at someone. He said a police officer almost killed him. Everyone's second amended is abridged not infringed. He doesn't think that any payment of taxes should prevent him from using his right to vote. He is a conservative democrat and he is not guilty. He wants his flame thrower back.

Pastor Sonny James who lives at 1830 Hopkins Avenue spoke to the council. He commended the Geraci bloodline for adding to the community. He sent out an invitation for people to participate in Norwood's first public gathering to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King on 1/15 at 5:30 pm called March Toward the Future. All positive minded people are welcome. The event will be socially distant, masks and gloves will be required. The march will begin by Walgreens and the Junior High and will end at 6 at City Hall. Banners and signs encouraged but subject to approval. He can be contact at 513-487-8843. Elevations Enrichment will lead the group. He has intentionally not allowed a lot of his peers to participate in the march so that it exemplifies our neighborhood. He thanked the Chief of Police for his dialog.

J) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

None

K) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None

L) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

- 1) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NORWOOD TO PURCHASE, AND USE, "EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY POLICY" THROUGH PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL (PEP)

On Motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Gabbard, it was moved to have the second reading of the ordinance. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed. The Clerk did the second reading.

M) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTION

- 1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES TO THE CITY OF NORWOOD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On motion by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to amend the ordinance to take out section 3 and the emergency portion of the caption. Mr. DiNardo asked why there was an emergency clause. The Law Director explained the reasons why emergency clauses are added in general. Mr. DiNardo thinks that if the council votes to move dispatch then keeping the emergency may be necessary to put monies into the financial recovery plan. Mr. Geraci asked if having an emergency clause will prevent residents from putting a referendum on the ballot to unpass an ordinance. The Law Director confirmed. Mr. Kelsch thinks that option should not be taken out of the resident's hands. Mr. Geraci agreed. Mr. Gabbard asked what happens if the Mayor dissolves the communications center anyway. The Law Director was unsure. Mr. Gabbard noted that there are people who are in limbo about their jobs so he thinks that there should be 3 readings tonight so that people can move on with their lives. Geraci and Kelsch voted yes. All others voted no.

On motion by Mr. Gabbard, seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to have all three readings. Mr. Geraci asked the Mayor to put the decision on hold, to put together a review board and allow residents a place on the board so they have a voice. There is no reason to be hasty. Roll called. All members except for Mr. Thompson voted yes. Mr. Thompson voted no. Motion passed. The Clerk did all three readings.

On motion by Mr. Bonsall seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to pass the ordinance. Mr. Bonsall noted that the decision has already been made by the administration so council should move forward. Mr. Kelsch noted that he has received overwhelming negative response from residents on this topic. Mr. Geraci also noted an overwhelming support from the community for

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keeping the communications center. Roll was called. Mr. Bonsall, Mr. DiNardo, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Breadon voted yes. All others voted no. Motion failed.

Mr. Bonsall asked the Mayor what his next step was. The Mayor stated that there is finite timeline within which he can get things done and the financial recovery communication tells the city what money can be spent on. The city is working on getting people into new positions with the city. He said this change is long time coming. He believes that the city is overspending when we are already paying taxes that go to E911. Money that could go to other areas is going into the communications center. He doesn't understand why council isn't willing to rely on the opinions of the fire and police chief. They are working with the Unions to get this to work. Mr. Thompson noted that only 3 council members voted against the ordinance. Council discussed what options there were to get the ordinance reconsidered.

Mr. Geraci noted that he specifically asked if keeping the communications center would prevent getting out of the financial emergency and he was told no. He suggests that the issue be revisited later since it was reviewed and motion failed.

N) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

The Mayor gave his report. They had a meeting with the engineering firm to put together a 5 year plan for streets. They did get the street survey back. There was a discussion about a possible simple fix to the Elm Street problem which would mean not going through MSD or the state. There is a financial recovery plan meeting tomorrow to discuss the budget that needs to be approved by March.

Mr. Kelsch said that he heard that Lincoln was in line to get done and he asked why that was. The Mayor noted that it was high on the list by the engineering firm as needing to get done but it may not get done due to some water main work that may need to be done.

O) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

P) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Geraci asked for housing health and safety committee members to send him availability for a meeting with the members of the nuisance ordinance task force.

He noted that the water rates are being raised and he is disheartened that costs are being passed on to the residents. Mr. Breadon clarified that the water rates come from the city of Cincinnati not Norwood.

Mr. Gabbard asked to set an economic development meeting next Tuesday the 19th at 6 pm. Finance is the same night at 7:30. Mr. Gabbard said that even though council members disagree they should always be respectful. Helen Geraci taught him that.

Mr. Kelsch said parks and rec committee is not meeting tomorrow but he will set another meeting.

Q) COMMUNICATIONS

Safety Service Director, John Murphy

Re: Water Rates

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Clerk of Courts

Re: December Mayor's Court Fines

On motion by Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Law Department

Re: Law Director's Report

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Breadon it was moved to allow law director to say a few words and receive and file the letter as if read. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

The Law Director noted that there are interesting topics before the Law Department due to city closure. Cases before the city are way down. He thanked the law department for their hard work and all new people for being willing to listen.

Mr. Geraci noted that he put out application for the nuisance review board on his facebook page, the city webpage and the council webpage. Resumes will be accepted until 1/27 and then council will go over the resumes.

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Mr. Bonsall thanked the Law Director and Law Department for all they do.

R) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

All members present.

S) ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Bonsall seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to adjourn. Roll was called. All members except for Mr. Geraci voted yes. Mr. Geraci voted no. Motion passed.

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