



NORWOOD CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2020

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

On the roll call the following members answered present: Mr. Bonsall, Mr. Geraci, Mr. Kelsch, Mr. DiNardo, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Breadon. Mr. Gabbard was absent when roll was called, but was in attendance soon after.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

The President noted amendments to the agenda as follows: add a letter to communications as item R2. On motion by Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to amend the agenda as noted. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

none

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

none

H) PROCLAMATION FOR EAGLE SCOUT TANNER LEACH

Mayor read proclamation for Tanner Leach in honor of his receipt of his Eagle Scout award. His project was a musical instrument drive to benefit Norwood youth. The Mayor designated June 23, 2020 as Tanner Leach Day. His scout leader also gave Tanner congratulations.

I) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1) Committee of the Whole Report

President Ken Miracle read the report noting that there was a zoom presentation by the Regional Income Tax Association and an update on the report on accounting methods. Alternate parade ideas were discussed but dismissed due to Covid-19 concerns. A discussion of the SORTA property on Montgomery Road was held.

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded, by Mr. Breadon. Motion to receive and file report.

J) "CITY OF NORWOOD PUBLIC HEARING: Notice of Public Hearing on the 2021 Tax Budget. Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd Day of June 2020, at 7:30pm, a public hearing will be held on the budget prepared by the City of Norwood of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the next succeeding fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. Such hearing will be held in the Norwood High School Gym, 2020 Sherman Ave, Norwood, Ohio 45212"

Pastor Sonny James who lives at 1830 Hopkins Avenue spoke regarding the 2021 Tax Budget. He commended the council on their hard work. He asked for the council to keep economic inclusion in mind.

There were no other requests to speak so the public hearing was closed.

K) THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None

L) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None

M) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2021 TAX BUDGET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, motion to have all three readings. Mr. DiNardo noted that the budget is based upon expected revenue but will be reviewed again based upon expected changes due to Covid-19 in August. The standard practice is to pass the budget at this meeting. Mr. Bonsall noted that at the end of this term the city will be free of bonds on the general funds. That was money to be paid back that was used to keep the city afloat. Expenses were cut in order to pay those off and he is glad to see that. Mr. Geraci asked how the Covid crisis will affect the budget. Mr. DiNardo said they will have a better idea come August and they will be discussing the worst case scenario.

Roll was called. All members voted yes. Motion passed. The Clerk of Council did all three readings of the resolution. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to pass the resolution.

"Gem of the Highlands"

2) **RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THAT FUNDS FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND MAY BE EXPENDED ONLY TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE CITY CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT AS DESCRIBED IN 42 U.S.C. 601(G) AND ANY APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Breadon it was moved to have the first reading of this ordinance. The Law Director asked the council to pass the resolution because in order to get the federal and state Covid relief money the resolution must be passed. It basically says that the city will only use the money as allowed. Money goes from fed to state to county to city. We can draw on the money to pay ourselves back for money extended for Covid related expenses. Then in October send money back that wasn't spent. Mr. Bonsall didn't realize it was urgent so he amended his motion to have all three motions. Mr. Breadon also amended his second.

Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed. The Clerk did all three readings of the resolution. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to pass the resolution. Roll was called. All members voted yes. Motion passed.

3) **ORDINANCE CREATING AND ESTABLISHING NORWOOD AGENCY FUND 96 "NORWOOD CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Dimardo, it was moved to have all three readings of this ordinance. Mr. Bonsall noted that a new fund must be created in order to incorporate the relief funds. It helps to separate the funds and show where the money went.

Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed. The Clerk did all three readings of the ordinance. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to pass the ordinance. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

4) **ORDINANCE HONORING THE MEMORY OF LISA TANNER AND NAMING THE PLAYGROUND ON HARRIS AVENUE BY SHEA STADIUM THE "LISA TANNER MEMORIAL PARK"**

On motion by Mr. Kelsch, seconded by Mr. Geraci, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Mr. Kelsch noted that this park is not currently named and is generally referred to using its location near Shea Stadium. The city has been working on renovating the park and naming it is the last step. Ms. Tanner spent 23 years serving the city and spent a lot of time at Shea Stadium. It would be a great honor to have it named after her. The President asked if the council men would amend their motions so that the first reading of the ordinance is done in its entirety. Mr. Kelsch and Mr. Geraci both amended their motions. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed. The clerk did three readings of the ordinance and the first reading was in its entirety.

On motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to pass the ordinance. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

N) **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

The Mayor gave his report. He noted that the Norwood pool is open. Senior aerobics are 10:30 am on MWF with a teacher on Monday and Wednesday. The pool is large enough to social distance. Roof work being done on city hall and the fire station. City signs are being replaced as needed. Work is being done at the parks by public works. He noted that the new city website will be launched soon and he encouraged the city council members to send new pictures for the website.

Mr. Gabbard asked about the minimum age for senior aerobics. The Mayor said 60.

Mr. Breadon asked for an update on what is being done at the fire station. The Mayor said the roof being worked on. There were several leaks in the roof. The Mayor noted that on city hall the issue was the gutters. Originally they were internal gutters, and now there are also box and external gutters. It is a challenge to get that taken care of to make sure water isn't getting into the building. They would also love windows like the ones that Sharpsburg just got.

Mr. Kelsch asked if there were any updates regarding the Elm Street project. The Mayor said there is not yet.

Mr. Gabbard noted that he will be doing photos of city employees so that all have a professional photo on the city website. The Mayor noted that he would love for a group photo of all of the fire fighters, policemen and the city council.

The President asked the Mayor to reiterate the social distancing policy in City Hall. The Mayor noted that they are still requiring masks, that there are protective barriers up and requirements for where people can stand at some points.

O) **OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Victoria Orso, 1030 Elm Park Drive in Park Hills spoke. When she was a little girl she wasn't allowed to come to Norwood to play with her friends. She came yesterday for a meeting and it warmed her heart. It felt awesome to talk, share how she feels and listen to others share how they feel about all that is going on. She heard the prayer and believed it. She thinks Norwood will be able to do great things and she will be back. It means everything that now she can come and see her friends.

Christopher Taylor, 1946 Elm Avenue spoke next. He was at the same meeting. He enjoyed it and got to meet people. He encouraged other people to come join.

"Gem of the Highlands"

James spoke next 1832 Hopkins Avenue. He attended the same meeting. It taught him that the way to change things is to get people together to talk it out and we need more of that.

Pastor Sonny James who lives at 1830 Hopkins spoke next. They gathered the day before at Victory Park for Hearing Every Perspective. One person appeared who lost both his son and daughter. He was angry but told the Pastor that he was in tears by the end of the meeting. He wants everyone to hear other perspectives and to put aside agendas to listen. They will have these meeting twice a week so that there are no excuses for people not to come. Some council members acknowledged that they couldn't make it and it was nice to get the acknowledgement that they were aware of the meeting. The top thing he wants to accomplish is economic inclusion. Channel 9 came out and did a story on them. They will be there on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7 to 8 pm (with some changes due to the holidays). He encouraged people to come out and listen to the old stories that cause the anger in some people. Encourages people to come out whenever there are people/groups with good ideas. Voters make a difference and they will be reporting who is participating. They want to do some pop up parties also. He can be reached at pastorsonnijames@gmail.com or call him at 513-487-8843.

P) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

Q) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Breadon announced a Streets and Infrastructure Committee meeting on 7/8 at 6:45. On the agenda is traffic calming, street shut downs due to street repairs, update on Ash and Marion.

Mr. Thompson asked to put into the Housing Committee a concern brought to him through a letter from a Xavier parent regarding the number of people in rental properties. Mr. Gabbard asked for the information to be given to the Clerk so it could be scanned and sent to all council members.

On motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Gabbard it was moved asked that Council go into executive session to consider the matter of a public employee or official under ORC 121.22(G)(1); and to confer with an attorney concerning (a) dispute(s) involving the City/Council that are the subject of pending or imminent court action under ORC 121.22(G)(3); Roll was called. All members voted yes. Motion passed.

When council came out of executive session Mr. Bonsall noted that the Norwood Star is ceasing operations. He stated that the Clark family has done a great job and he wanted to express his regrets and appreciation to the Clark family for all that they have done.

Mr. Kelsch reminded everyone of a Parks Committee meeting the next day in council chambers at 7:30. Mr. Geraci reminded that there was a Housing and Public Safety Committee meeting the next day at 1 pm in the council chambers.

R) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter from Treasurer's Office

RE: Bank Reconciliations for January – May 2020

The Clerk read the letter regarding the monthly bank reconciliations. On motion by Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Roll was called. All members voted yes. Motion passed.

2) Letter from Donna Laake

RE: Discussion of ASAP Norwood

The Clerk read the letter regarding the discussion of ASAP Norwood at the June 9, 2020 meeting. She noted that ASAP worked with the city on the basketball court project. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Gabbard, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Mr. Geraci noted that he understands that the project has been in the works for a year but noted that he asked several questions regarding the designs. His concern is the upkeep of the paint job/design and cost since it is public land. He didn't believe that he was being disrespectful but understands that is Ms. Laake's opinion. Mr. Thompson noted that the cost of upkeep was factored in and a sealant will be put down to keep the design looking good for some time. He does understand Mr. Geraci's frustration on not being in the loop but noted that the project had been worked on for some time. Mr. Kelsch noted that it is important for new council members especially to ask questions to become informed and make sure that the city does not stay business as usual. Mr. Bonsall suggested that council work together on their communication with each other and the public. Mr. Breadon noted that Ms. Laake was a long standing member of council and asked that council reflect on the letter instead of dismissing it. Roll was called. All members voted yes. Motion passed.

S) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER

All members present

T) ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Mr. Bonsall, it was moved to adjourn. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

"Gem of the Highlands"