



**Amended
NORWOOD CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Norwood Community Center
July 28, 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. Gabbard, Mr. Geraci, Mr. Kelsch, Mr. DiNardo, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Breadon. All council members present.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. May 26, 2020 Norwood City Council Meeting Minutes.

On motion by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to approve and file the minutes from the 5/26/20 meeting. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1) Housing Health and Public Safety Committee Report

Minutes from the 7/23/20 meeting read by Mr. Geraci. The committee discussed chronic nuisance ordinance. Changes to the 4th draft made and the 5th draft to be written. Another meeting will be set to discuss that draft. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to receive and file the committee report. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

2) Finance Budget and Audit Committee Report

Minutes read by Mr. DiNardo. The committee reviewed assignments from president of council regarding requests from the state on procedures. They discussed changes to proposed policy for purchase orders and will be providing recommendations to the president who will then seek approval from state auditor's office. Once approved the procedure will be submitted to council approval at next meeting. The committee discussed method and format of biannual budget review to happen next month. They will evaluate plans versus city needs. Mr. Bonsall suggested informal review be done informally. On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Geraci, it was moved to receive and file the committee report. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

I) THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

a. ORDINANCE REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS TO BE WORN IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE IN INDOOR PUBLIC PLACES DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION FOR THE SAFE REOPENING OF NORWOOD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to table this ordinance indefinitely. Mr. Bonsall doesn't think that there is support to pass the ordinance plus there is the governor's mandate now to require mask wearing. If the governor's mandate expires or otherwise ends, then perhaps council can reconsider.

Mr. Kelsch says that it is unfortunate we can't vote on the matter. Asked for motion to be rescinded so council can vote on it since it was touted as important. Mr. Thompson thinks it will be killed if voted on tonight. Thompson thinks that the city should have control on this topic but sees tabling it as a compromise since the general consensus at the last meeting was against the ordinance. Mr. Bonsall noted

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that council members noted that the ordinance was a duplication to governor's earlier mandates. Thinks table is the right place to be since there doesn't appear to be the votes available for it.

Roll was called. All members present voted yes except for Mr. Kelsch and Mr. Breadon. Motion passed.

J) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None

K) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

a. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD TO ENTER INTO AN OPERATIONS AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWOOD CITY BOARD OF HEALTH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance.

Mr. DiNardo stated that the ordinance is an attempt to create a Norwood Board of Health as a stand-alone entity. The Ohio Revised Code says that a board of health should be independent. Previously the city thought this just meant that the board should file an independent audit. State says that ours is the only community that has a board of health that is not a stand-alone entity. When reviewing options, the city noted that if they create a complete stand-alone entity that city employees may lose benefits. What was decided upon was to do a board with only 1 employee – the director as the only employee. The city then sends money to the board annually to pay operating expenses. The agreement needs to go into effect by 7/31. Day to day operations won't be much different except that they will need to request funds yearly. They will be able to request their own grants. City would act only as bookkeepers. This allows flexibility to evaluate budget needs and staffing needs.

Mr. Bonsall stated that this ordinance keeps politics totally separate and helps the board to keep more autonomy.

Mr. Gabbard asked for mayor's thoughts. Mayor echoed Mr. Bonsall. Board of Health operated as separate entity for many years, but this gives them more financial responsibility to make sure they are operating efficiently. New challenge for them. This is also part of city coming out of financial emergency and complies with auditor's requirements.

Mr. Bonsall went on further that this protects the city. Control still had by the city to make changes in the future as necessary. Employees will still be city employees except for health commissioner. City still has control of building and pays utilities. He believes that this appears to be an attempt by the state to eliminate small health departments which he thinks is unfortunate, but this is a strong plan that protects the city and the board of health.

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

b. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOME NORWOOD RESIDENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF FLORAL AND HUDSON AVENUES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. DiNardo, it was moved to have the first two readings of the ordinance. Mr. Geraci said that he had heard at the parks committee meeting that most people were in support. Asked if we could do three readings. Mr. Kelsch agreed.

Resident Jon Moore who lives at 2432 Hudson Avenue spoke. He has been in contact with adjacent property owners and law department. Tree lawn is side yard of an apartment on Hudson. This plan requires no investment from the city as it is funded by residents. He and a group of residents to come up with the design. A professional landscape architect came out to review design. \$1800 raised in funds so far. Lt Murphy was consulted also. This is a nice public space that promotes walkability.

Mr. Bonsall amended his motion to all three readings. Mr. DiNardo amended his second. Bonsall thanked the property owners and residents who came together to be in on the agreement and noted that the adjacent property owner said he would keep mowing the lawn.

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

c. RESOLUTION PROPOSING CHANGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES"

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On Motion by Mr. Kelsch, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance.

Mr. Kelsch said that he was contacted by several residents after the board of zoning appeals meeting. There were some issues with the process and a lack of people in the know. He spoke with Chris Brown who wrote the original ordinance. This ordinance gives more residents notice, more time to object and more time to participate in public hearings. More residents will be alerted to changes going on around them. People can plan to be at meetings then. This opens the process up and makes it more transparent.

Mr. Thompson clarified that it's the distance of neighboring properties to be alerts and response time to be changed. It was 200 feet will now be 300 feet. Per building department that's generally 28 more houses. Mr. Gabbard asked if this would affect conditional use change along with rezoning. Kelsch said yes.

Mr. Bonsall thinks the building dept made a mistake. Thinks there is a misinterpretation that only abutting property owners need to be notified but that the ordinance really does mean that all property owners within 200 feet. Normally it is the actual applicant that sends out notices not building department. The ordinance increases administrative burden on people who want to apply for conditional use, and he asked if there is any evidence that 300 feet is better than 200 feet.

Mr. Breadon asked Mr. Bonsall to describe the specific incident he referred to and provide clarification. As to incident there was application to board of zoning appeals for conditional use on Hopkins. Multiple residents appeared and were opposed and didn't get notified as they should have. Building department sent notice only to abutting properties. Thinks it was a misinterpretation by building department.

This does not change Mr. Kelsch's mind. There are many other properties like this in the city that this would apply to. After talking to residents, the thought was the same. They all wish more people knew. Wish we had more time. The next steps per the assistant law director is that after the resolution, then it goes to the planning board who would review it and make changes as necessary. The Law Director noted that this is part of the zoning code, so changes come from planning commission. This is formal request from council to planning commission to make a change. Any change they make would come back to council.

Mr. Thompson agreed with more time but not with the expansion of the area. Change almost doubles area of people to be notified. He feels that the council needs to be cognizant of cost and how it affects applicants. Mr. Geraci stated that expanding the area would be helpful when considering things like traffic patterns and parking. Mr. DiNardo thinks it makes sense and helps there to be a positive view of these kinds of changes. The Mayor didn't have any comments. Gabbard doesn't think board of zoning appeals (bza) will do anything with it and it may be a waste of time. He is ok with the time change since there has been some usps delay. He is ok with keeping at 200 feet as long as it is applied equally on all sides. No one he spoke with was impressed with bza and didn't feel welcome by the bza nor considered. Mr. Kelsch says this is the formal process no matter if the bza does it or not. He heard some of the same things about the meeting. Tells bza that we expect better. Mr. Bonsall thinks there are other ways to be transparent. Asked the building department for bza agendas to be sent to clerk of council. Asked that clerk's office send to sunshine list. Doesn't support resolution with no proof that it would work. Mr. Breadon voting yes so bza can review and see what they do.

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

L) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor provided his report. The city wellness program officially kicked off. Two unions said they are for it.

The city is doing shared interest meetings with unions which will go on between negotiations. These give everyone the chance to discuss how to make things work best.

Hamilton County Development Corp. will be the city's economic development arm starting in August. Starting to already see businesses interested in Norwood. This gets Norwood Hamilton county and regional exposure.

The administration is making sure everything in place to take advantage of covid funding. Rules changing all the time.

City improvements are going on including the city hall and fire department roof repairs. City hall was mostly gutter problems. Parking lot upgrades to were done to 2 municipal lots and more to come. Administration is making progress on frp list. Close to finishing on policies and procedures manual. Budget review started within administration. Department heads have to have budgets into admin by 9/1.

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Council will be meeting at community center for next month or two.

Parks clean up recently at Northwoods. Thanked citizen effort as there was a big impact in short period of time.

There are reports of tripping on sidewalks. If you have a sidewalk in front of your house with a trip hazard you should take a look at getting that fixed. Building department has a list of contractors. Safety Service Director and the Police Chief are working on ways to communicate with council members on incidents that occur so that council members can provide information to residents.

The city is hoping to get some street work done before the fall. Next process starting for later funding. They are still working on street survey. The city is still working on the app See/click/fix for residents to take a picture of things that need to fix in city. Very close to getting that up and running and they are looking at other apps that may do the same thing.

Waterworks usage is up. Please be kind to each other. Basketball courts still being worked on.

Elm Avenue issue still be worked on. Nothing new to report

Norwood lateral cleanup planned for 8/24 with public works and city of Cincinnati. Looking at hiring company to put tar in seams on sidewalks to help stop the vegetation. Bonsall asked if there was an update on lights on the lateral. Mayor said there are 5 lighting systems on the lateral and all have issues. There are underground wires that need to be replaced. Duke gave bid to hand on poles. ODOT standards have now changed on lighting. Looking at multiple options. Asked for capital electric to come in and trouble shoot problems. Have applied for grants through ODOT for lighting improvements.

Bonsall asked about resident notification of issues that happen in the city. Mayor said there is fine line between issuing information to catch bad guys and tipping them off. Specific incident discussed was people being held up at gunpoint and forced to get money out of atm. Mr. Geraci asked if perhaps city has looked into a notification program called nixle. Something police can use to notify residents. He has seen it used in other areas.

Mr. Thompson asked about the new city employee covid policy. Asked about quarantine after travel. City policy was 10 days, the governor suggestion was 2 weeks. He worries that city setting itself up for potential outbreak especially in departments that work close to police and fire. Health department said most cases are coming for vacation travel. Concerned about city employees going to hotspot areas. He suggested if possibly working from home for these employees may be possible. Also suggested a more extensive checklist of symptoms review prior to returning to work.

Mr. Geraci asked if perhaps the report from the health department can also include number of tests being done.

M) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Lemuel James of 1830 Hopkins addressed council. The last time he addressed council he mentioned explorer post in Norwood. This is a program where young people 18-21 partner with police department to learn about law enforcement. He used to be a part of Norwood's until it ended. Spoke with father about fund raising and is hoping to fund raise to reopen the post. Asking for Norwood police to send an officer to show their support of the program. He is a member of the Cincinnati program. He will be talking to that program to see what can be done to bring in people and provide support to the fund-raising events. He wants this to be done in conjunction with his mother's program Elevations Enrichment which helps students and any funds raised would also go to help that program.

Yvonne Collins of 3811 South Madison spoke next. Asked for people to remember Doctor John Lewis who served his state. He did an act on 3/7/65 which came to be known as bloody Sunday. He didn't get bitter or discouraged. He was respected in government. Called him conscious of congress which was fitting. There is a petition online to rename the Edmund Hettis bridge as the John Robert Lewis bridge. Thinks it would be a fitting end for a man who gave much. She got worried about the crime on the south side and is hoping perpetrators caught. She noted that if you keep treating young black men the same way you will get the same results. Perhaps they could pay into the community that they hurt. Mr. Geraci asked if she had suggestions on how to deter illegal behavior. She said she had ideas. Need a black adult to get attention. Speak to parents. Maybe there will listen to a person of color parent. She noted that council doesn't look like the people you see in Norwood. Seeing many more people of color moving in but want

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caucasians to stay too. Mr. Geraci suggested perhaps for nonviolent crimes doing a community clean up or another diversion program.

Pastor Sonny James of 1830 Hopkins Avenue spoke next. He echoed comments about congressman John Lewis and read a quote from congressman. Recently he apologized to law director. He had been angry for some time but when looked at him from a distance noted he had to keep himself to the same standard he professed. Recently started the program Hearing Every Perspective. Some council members have appeared and other said they would but didn't. Economic inclusion is important. He would like to bring in drive in movie theater here to Norwood and found a spot for it. He is asking for people to come out and support. They want to pay 40 dollar an hour for police officers to be on site to ensure safety. Want to contribute some money for every movie to police so that they will have the money to restart the explorer program. Wants to see diversity in contracts. Some money from the drive in event would go to kids from Elevations Enrichment. Commended Mr. Kelsch for opening door to give more residents to hear issue. He is finally on the sunshine list. Means a lot to him. Encourages people to email him at pastorsonnyjames@gmail.com or text him at 5134878843. Mr. Geraci asked for clarification about the restarting of the explorer program in Norwood. Pastor said he hoped to sit down with police first before speaking on that.

N) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

O) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Geraci asked for the clerk to send a communication to Rumpke about picking up yard waste without resident calling. What would it cost? Can it be presented at the next hearing under administration report perhaps.

Mr. Gabbard requested that an economic development meeting be set for 8/5 730 in council chambers. Breadon asking about getting pkgs delivered by police. Clerk said she would check with police to see if an auxiliary officer can deliver the pkgs. Mr. Geraci suggested maybe a usb instead of paper. Mr. Bonsall thinks members will be more prepared if they get the paper pkg if they want it. Mr. Thompson asked if we could send copies of the ordinances to people on the sunshine list. Mr. Bonsall asked law director if there were any issues with that. Law Director suggested a draft watermark on them.

Mr. Bonsall announced that the third phase of Wasson Way has kicked off. The path will go down past Kroger in Hyde Park and should be done by the end of the year. Mr. Bonsall also noted that Duke Energy and Artworks are working together on a mural on the Cincinnati side of Wasson Way. It will be second largest mural in the city, and it is only facing the trail.

P) COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Letter from Mayor Re: Mayor's Court Fines

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

- 2) Letter from Auditor's office Re: June Monthly Financial Reports

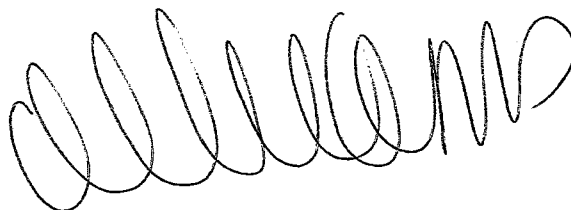
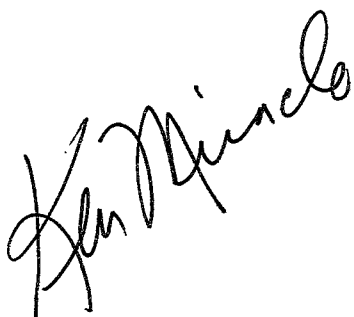
The Clerk read the letter. On motion by Mr. DiNardo, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Mr. Bonsall noted that there is a significant amount of money not used yet. Asked if administration can check in with council when there is extra money to see what council thinks it should be used on. Roll was called. All members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

None

R) ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Thompson it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Roll was called. All members present voted yes except Mr. Geraci. Motion passed.



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