



Council Chambers

October 23, 2018

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, and Mr. Sanker; Mr. Breadon were absent.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add the resolution regarding the M60A3 Tank. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting, as if read. Ms. Stevenson abstained, while all others present voted, "Yes".

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

1) Economic Development & Community Engagement: 10/4/18 Re: Committee Goals

Ms. Stevenson invited Emma Shirey and Valerie Daley, both Community Building Associates at Community Building Institute (CBI), to share some data and statistics about Norwood's population and housing trends. Ms. Daley distributed a data snapshot to members of Council and pointed out several statistical highlights; a copy is on file in the Clerk of Council's office. Ms. Daley stated the population in Norwood has decreased around 10% since 2000; home ownership versus rental has flipped since 2000, and is now 52% renter occupied and 48% owner occupied. Almost half of the households in Norwood are single-person households; most married couples living in Norwood do not have children. There is a decline in student-age population and 35-44 year olds. Over 10% of all housing units in Norwood are currently vacant and around 1,700 households are living in poverty. Ms. Daley shared maps that highlighted demographics and housing information; additional information can be found at <http://bit.ly/NorwoodHousing> and <http://bit.ly/NorwoodPopulation>.

Ms. Daley stated the data is a five-year estimate between 2012 and 2016; it doesn't capture the current housing market. Ms. Stevenson spoke about policy work that can be done with this data; funding has been dedicated to make sure this data is available. Ms. Stevenson also stated she has requested that this document is uploaded to the public Google Doc for the Quality of Life Planning Process, so that it is made available for everyone to review. Mayor Williams asked about looking at this information and giving it to realtors and individuals who rehab houses in Norwood; Ms. Stevenson stated there is a housing group with realtors and they have prioritized putting together a one-page document to be made available for stake-holders. Ms. Stevenson stated all of Council has been invited to join the action groups and meetings; anyone interested can reach out to her or Angela Pancella with Woven Oak. Ms. Stevenson stated she is hopeful the energy and creativity of residents can be matched by the legislative body; she is thankful to CBI for getting this information together.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to receive and file the committee report. All present voted, "Yes."

I) SECOND/THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES

There were no second or third readings or ordinances.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

- 1) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE-SAFETY AND/OR THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN EQUIPMENT PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT UNDER THE STATE BID PURCHASE PROGRAM WITH COMMUNICATIONS VENTURE CORPORATION, dba, INDIGITAL FOR 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT, AND SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Hanrahan requested Lt. Rankin and Chief Kramer address Council on this matter.

Lt. Rankin's responses to numerous questions that were asked by members of Council regarding the purchase of new 911 equipment are noted below:

- The State needs Council's approval for this purchase
- 43 other communities are utilizing Hamilton County's 911 service
- There are up to 50-60 dispatchers at any given time with Hamilton County; 2-3 dispatchers are currently handling Norwood calls alone
- Calls to Hamilton County are prioritized by emergency need; duplicate calls from one community experiencing an emergency may slow down the service for other communities
- In most instances when calling 911 in Norwood, calls are dispatched immediately
- In other systems, a call-taker receives the call and creates an incident, it is sent to the dispatcher, and is then triaged based on necessity
- For emergency medical dispatching, current calls to Norwood dispatch are transferred to a paramedic or a fire clerk who has been trained in life-saving techniques to handle; the squad response time is 3-4 minutes per run
- One cost-saving measure is to send a Norwood lead dispatcher to learn how to teach the emergency medical dispatching; once certification is received, it will take 32-48 hours to train others in-house, which will be completed by January 1, 2019
- Partnerships, programs, and ideas are being worked to possibly save money down the road
- 911 is not just an answering service
- In one year there are around:
 - 17,000 911 calls
 - 31,000 police calls for service
 - 5,000 calls with fire dispatched
 - 30,000 non-emergency calls; transferred to someone within the city
 - Hamilton County will bill for non-emergency calls
- With the new 911 equipment, a mapping system will allow for the prioritization and filtering of calls
 - Using the example of a truck on fire, and a number of people calling to report it
 - The mapping system allows for the dedication of a dispatcher to answer calls from other parts of the city and are answered in a timely manner
- In Norwood, our call-takers are also trained as dispatchers, which is a time savings
- This new system has redundancy built-ins and a back-up system
 - Each dispatch terminal has a back-up PSAP suitcase, which allows for calls to be answered from anywhere; this is a benefit to the community

Mr. Thompson stated Council has been presented two plans: keeping 911 in-house or contracting the services with Hamilton County. The point was to save money, but the reality of the situation is that both ways spend slightly more money; even if contracting with Hamilton County, there are personnel costs associated with needed employees. Mrs. Hanrahan stated money is a big issue, but looking at the level of service being provided is key; getting rid of our 911 service will mean it is gone for good.

Mr. Bonsall stated he emailed the Norwood Police and Norwood Fire Departments about concerns with 911; Andy Knapp and Mrs. Hanrahan attended a meeting with Mr. Bonsall and representatives from the Norwood Police and Fire Departments. Other communities who contract with Hamilton County are still paying clerk salaries within their respective community. In reviewing the information, keeping Norwood's 911 service is the right decision and serves our citizens well; it leaves the option open for future elected officials. Mrs. Hanrahan agrees that the best decision for Norwood at this time is to keep our 911 service in-house. Ms. Stevenson thanked Chief Kramer and Lt. Rankin for attending the meeting and sharing additional information; she appreciates their time and best efforts to help Council understand the process and the system. Ms. Stevenson also stated she appreciates their willingness to accept feedback and their openness, and appreciates this Council body and the conversation and deliberations that have taken place. Mr. Clark also thanked Chief Kramer and Lt. Rankin; he also supports keeping our 911 system, as it is the best option at this time.

Mayor Williams stated Chief Kramer and Lt. Rankin did take this matter to the State Auditors. It is also possible that after switching to Hamilton County, that they will raise the rates for each call. Mutual aid is a working system, and the Norwood Fire Department will not leave the city unprotected. Mayor Williams addressed the matter of the anonymous email, stating it showed "no courage," so he doesn't believe it came from anyone working for the safety services of the city. Mayor Williams confirmed that he was the person who placed the issue of 911 into the Financial Recovery Plan for review and discussion; he has been as transparent as possible. He appreciates the time and conversation of everyone involved.

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

Mr. Thompson asked for consideration of having the first reading tonight, and the second and third readings in two weeks to allow more time for citizen feedback.

Lt. Rankin expressed concern about delaying the vote for two more weeks, referencing a meeting taking place on November 1, 2018, and the fact that the system will have to be installed and implemented. Mr. Thompson stated the city needs to do better with the timing of ordinances; he understands the time crunch with this ordinance and understands the third reading will take place at a special meeting tomorrow night. Mr. Bonsall agreed to amend his motion to suspend the rules and hear the first and second readings of the ordinance; Mr. Sanker agreed to amend his second to the motion. All members present voted, "Yes."

- 2) ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO THE PROJECT ID NO. 94224, THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SECTION AVE. BRIDGE OVER STATE ROUTE 562, AND AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE STATE OF OHIO NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sanker asked for Mr. Geers to address Council on this topic. Mr. Geers stated the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing to do work on the Section Avenue bridge over the Norwood Lateral (SR 562), and they need Norwood's approval. This is similar to work that was completed on the Beech Street bridge/overpass; there are no shared costs for this project. The project is proposed to go out for bid by ODOT in the year 2020; this agreement will allow ODOT to do the work in Norwood. Mr. Bonsall asked about the need for all three readings tonight; Mr. Geers stated one reading tonight will be fine, but he requests not delaying it too long.

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

- 3) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE-SAFETY AND/OR THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH S&S HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES, LTD. TO PROVIDE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mrs. Hanrahan, it was moved to suspend the rules and hear all three readings of the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

Mrs. Laake stated she requested this ordinance; the Benovations contract expires October 31, 2018. She wanted to make sure the retirees get all backed payment from 2016, 2017, and 2018. S & S Healthcare will take total responsibility of any unpaid claims; this will run through December 31, 2019. There is no setup fee because the retirees are already in the system; the cost is \$8.50 per retiree, per month. Mrs. Laake stated the Vice-President of S & S Healthcare has provided both his email address and cell number. Mrs. Laake complimented Julie Tople for her work on this, and recommends passage of this ordinance tonight for uninterrupted service. Mr. Bonsall stated he will be voting for all three readings and he appreciates how fast everyone worked on this.

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

SECOND/THIRD READING OF RESOLUTIONS

- 1) RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING THOSE WHO RESTORED THE M60A3 TANK, AND CLEANED UP AND PLANTED FLOWERS AT VICTORY PARK, IN OBSERVATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY, ON NOVEMBER 11, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to hear the second and third readings of the resolution. All members present voted, "Yes."

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

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

- 1) RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Mr. Stith, Norwood Auditor, stated passing this resolution is a routine part of the budgetary process; in June, Council passed the 2019 Tax Budget. The deadline is this week but the Auditor's office didn't receive the letter until three weeks ago; by accepting this in a resolution, we are agreeing to the rates and amounts. Mr. Bonsall asked about the timeline and wanted to confirm that the tax rates were not received until three weeks ago; Mr. Stith replied by stating he will look at the letter for the actual date.

Ms. Stevenson asked Mr. Stith to walk through Schedules A and B. Mr. Stith stated this is a county form, which shows two existing levies and the amounts collected from each levy; this also shows the

amount collected from each levy, minus the homestead rollback, which is reimbursed by the state. This currently represents an increase of around \$49,000, based on property reassessments; the totals change what was provided in the revenue forecast. The 5-year forecast will be adjusted to reflect these new numbers as they come in. Mr. Stith stated he seriously doubts the city will have a \$1.2 million debt, which was projected; it should be significantly lower. At the second meeting in November, Council will have to correct appropriations as directed by the State Auditors. Mr. Stith also mentioned taking the current Fiscal Emergency Plan and converting it into the initial appropriations for 2019; Council will then adjust appropriations in March to adapt to the new plan.

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

Ms. Stevenson asked about the names of all members of Council appearing on the resolution, and the need for each member to initial them; Mrs. Laake confirmed the Clerk of Council will take care of that portion.

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

2) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, WITH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL CORPORATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to hear the first and second readings of the resolution. All members present voted, "Yes."

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administrative reports.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

John Capella & Jason Provins Re: Gem of the Highlands 5K ad Off Pike Market

John Capella, a race director for the Flying Pig Marathon, spoke about the inaugural Gem of the Highlands 5K taking place on November 10, 2018; proceeds from the race this year will be directed toward Norwood parks. Mr. Capella stated the executive committee wants an event to make the community proud and to showcase the community to others who may be interested in moving here; he thanked the Norwood Police and Fire Associations for being title sponsors for the event. Additional information can be found at www.NorwoodRun.com.

Jason Provins, Executive Director of Off Pike Market, spoke about the market that will take place on Floral Avenue following the run, from 9am – 2pm. There will be around 20 vendors, a live performance from The Norwoodians band, a presentation on the history of Floral Avenue by the Norwood Historical Society, and then a presentation by Avenues for Success. Mr. Bonsall thanked Mr. Capella and Mr. Provins, as well as the executive team for the 5K, and expressed his excitement about having a signature event. The event is a run/walk and also open to those with strollers and pets.

Pat Bruns Re: Education Reform at the State Department of Education

Pat Bruns, current member of the Ohio State Board of Education, addressed Council on several education reforms items. Ms. Bruns spoke about the adoption of a 5-year strategic plan; this will lay the framework for local school districts to develop their own local improvement plan. They are also working on graduation requirements; there is a report card review committee that is looking at moving away from a reliance strictly on testing. The issues being faced in Norwood schools are the issues being addressed through reform efforts. Mr. Bonsall asked about report cards and socio-economic conditions; Ms. Bruns replied by saying she wants to place more emphasis on teachers and the district being given credit on where the student starts and the amount of progress the student is making. Ms. Stevenson asked about standardized assessments and readiness for kindergarten; Ms. Bruns replied by stating a child's brain is 90% developed by age 5. The third grade reading guarantee could be the benchmark; if a student isn't reading at grade level by grade three, a student may possibly have more trouble graduating high school. Let them do whatever assessment is needed, knowing that the benchmark is in the third grade. Ms. Bruns also commented on a \$25,000,000 federal "Striving Readers" grant. Ms. Bruns stated meetings are now on the Ohio Channel, and she also shared her phone number, (513)310-8953, as a way to stay informed.

Jessica Madsen Re: Platform to Fix Judicial System

Jessica Madsen, of Slane Avenue, spoke to Council about Tom Beridon, a candidate for Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. Ms. Madsen stated she hosted a meet-and-greet for several judicial candidates; she then introduced Mr. Beridon. Mr. Beridon congratulated Norwood on housing the Hamilton County Board of elections within the city; today is the highest total of early voters. Judges have a decision to make regarding the preference of their process to be open and transparent. Mr. Beridon stated Hamilton County is the only county in Ohio running juror pool from voter registrations; there is a need to raise the amount paid to those called for jury duty. Mr. Beridon shared his web-site: www.ElectBeridon.com.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake provided an update on the retiree healthcare; bills of \$16,034.34 have been submitted to catch up C9 payments, and \$25,308.32 for Millennium. There has been \$200,000 in backed payments to the retirees; she appreciates Council passing the S & S Healthcare ordinance. Mrs. Laake mentioned the stop-loss plan; this covers large claims and costs around \$22,000 per month. There have not been any claims submitted under this plan for the past three years; the Safety-Service Director would like some direction from Council on how to move forward. Ms. Stevenson asked Mrs. Laake for clarity on a timeline; Mrs. Laake replied by stating the contract expires October 31, 2018, and the city needs to let them know if we want to extend the service for one month, two months, or not at all. Mr. Bonsall recommends not extending the coverage for two months.

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was moved to not renew the stop-loss plan for the months of November, 2018 and December, 2018. Ms. Stevenson voted, "No;" all other members present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Thompson stated he was contacted by a retiree regarding a check that bounced; Mrs. Laake also added that the account numbers were transposed on 7 checks, causing them to bounce. New checks are supposed to be reissued, as well as reimbursing for any additional bank charges from the bounced checks. Mrs. Laake clarified that although it looks like Norwood bounced the checks, it was actually Benovations. Mrs. Hanrahan stated she visited Benovations and was able to put Mrs. Laake in direct contact with two of their employees while she was there. Mr. Bonsall encouraged retirees to resubmit claims to the new vendor after November 1, 2018.

Mrs. Laake provided an update on the Safe Routes to School project; there was a change order submitted, but there are no added costs. Allison Street and Sherman Avenue will look different; crosswalks will be aligned and redesigned. Ms. Stevenson asked about the installation of crosswalk lights at that intersection; Mrs. Laake replied by stating she wasn't sure, as there is not enough foot traffic at that intersection. Mr. Bonsall stated there were high costs involved in upgrading that lighting system.

Ms. Stevenson requested for any residents who have concerns about the 911 ordinance, or any other matters, to please contact any of the elected officials.

N) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Re: Transfer of license to Stonies Pub & Grub

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to receive and file the letter and take no action. All present voted, "Yes."

2) Letter from Mayor Williams

Re: Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, it was moved to receive and file the letter, and to enter into executive session to prepare for, conduct, or review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, and to take a five minute recess prior to entering executive session. All present voted, "Yes."

Council entered Executive Session.

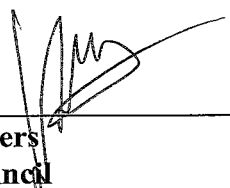
Council returned from Executive Session.

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBER/S

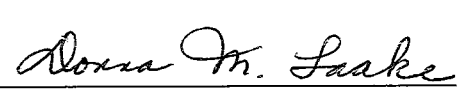
On a motion by Mr. Bonsall, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was moved to excuse Mr. Breadon. All members present voted, "Yes."

Q) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Stevenson, 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