



Norwood City Council Council Chambers March 8, 2011

A) CALL TO ORDER

The Council for the City of Norwood met in regular session on the above date with Ms. Jane Grote 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 were present: Mr. Thornbury, Mrs. Laake, Mr. Mumper, Mr. Gabbard, Mr. Sanker, and Mr. Schneider. Mr. Moore was absent.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to move the reconsideration of the vetoed ordinance #9-2011 until after the letter for executive session, to remove Ordinance #4, which is the ordinance for a temporary moratorium for building permits, and to add as correspondence #4 the letter from Joe Geers regarding the rebate check received from Workers' Compensation. All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs. Laake asked to clarify the minutes regarding the people who addressed council and asked that their position on the minutes be moved. Ms. Grote stated that the minutes were correct because that is where they spoke at the meeting. Mr. Schneider pointed out a typographical error in the minutes under the Finance Committee Report regarding the claim of Jodi Nosov. He stated that it is durapatcher, not a dirt paver. On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to approve the minutes from February, 22, 2011 as amended, as if read. All members present voted "YES".

G) REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were none.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE PROMOTING THE "CITY WIDE STREET SALE" AND ABATEMENT OF ALL PERMIT FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE. (MAY)

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to amend the ordinance to change the wording in section 2 from advertising "in the Enquirer" to "by postings throughout the city." All members present voted, "Yes."

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance, as amended. All members present voted, "Yes."

2. ORDINANCE PROMOTING THE "CITY WIDE STREET SALE" AND ABATEMENT OF ALL PERMIT FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE. (SEPT)

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to amend the ordinance to change wording in section 2 from advertising "in the Enquirer" to "by postings throughout the city." All members present voted, "Yes."

On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance, as amended. All members present voted, "Yes."

3. ORDINANCE DESIGNATING LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWOOD FOR THE POSTING OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, STATEMENTS, ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS, NOTICES AND REPORTS REQUIRED BY LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Mrs. Laake stated that this ordinance allows us to post ordinances at locations in the city as opposed to posting them and paying for them in the Enquirer. She explained that the city made this change for several reasons: first, that this method of communication has been very effective in the past; second, that it gives our citizens more knowledge of what is going on in the city than posting in the legal ads; and third, that it is a big cost savings for the city. Mrs. Laake asked the Clerk of Council if the people at these locations are aware of what will be going on and that the postings will be up for 15 days. Ms. Brown answered that she and Caroline Schirmer, her secretary, have been working with these groups that you see on the list to initiate the set up of posting locations to save the city money on Enquirer ads. The ads were costing the city \$14,000- \$16,000 per year. With this ordinance, we will post the ordinances and resolutions. Ms. Brown stated that there were several other people that worked with us and were very cooperative in procuring the necessary materials and locations. Ms. Brown wanted to thank NCS Superintendent Rob Amodio and Kelly Cornelius for providing the locked board for our use in the school district administration building. She thanked Jeanie Tolbert at the Health Department who worked with us to accommodate our postings there. Mrs. Brown mentioned that Lupe Hoyt of the Norwood Service League was most generous as they not only offered up their building as a posting location, but also gave us the use of locked bulletin boards that they are allowing us to use and are having those boards installed at no cost to the city. Ms. Brown also wanted to thank both Kathy at the Recreation Department and Pete Tepe of Public Works who have been working with Mrs. Schirmer to arrange for postings at the Community Center. Finally, she thanked the staff here at city hall for their generosity in sharing their bulleting board space with us. This posting process will add a little more work to Mrs. Schirmer's duties, but we are happy to do whatever it takes to keep the city going and contribute what we can to help, just as there are many employees in the city who are willing to do a little extra. The staff at these locations are aware that we will start this posting process soon and everything is almost ready to go. Mr. Schneider stated that at the bottom of the ordinance, it still has the certification of publication. He asked if that will change and if this is the first ordinance that will be posted as stated in the ordinance. Mr. Kiser answered the question, stating that his recommendation is that because this ordinance has not been published, the Clerk of Council should use the current method in the paper and from that point forward, we will proceed with the method that is described in this ordinance. On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Mayor's Report RE: Miscellaneous Business

The Mayor reported that the KOPS (Keeping Our Properties Safe) program has issued more orders and that two houses were vacated and a felony arrest warrant was executed. Two people were charged. All departments are working together and it is a successful program.

Mayor Williams stated that people may have noticed firefighters at the church across the street from city hall. He stated that the owner of the building is allowing Rapid Attack Training (RAT) which teaches firefighters how to rescue a firefighter in danger. The firefighters have been doing simulations to go through a fire and get a fellow firefighter out of danger. All fire departments train the same way so that if they are in another jurisdiction, the same procedure is used. It was an intense operation that he observed. The costs were covered by a FEMA grant so there was no expense to the city.

The Mayor also announced that he will have information on union negotiations to council soon.

Mr. Sanker stated that he noted that a new right turn only sign had been installed on Norwood Avenue and asked the Mayor if an arrow indicating a right turn only will be painted in the lane. The Mayor agreed that the arrow would be helpful and stated that

the crew is currently working on patch, but will get on the arrow painting ASAP. He admitted that it is a bit confusing without the arrow painted on the road. The Mayor interjected that the rebate mentioned in the letter from Joe Geers that will be read in communications is due to the hard work of the Safety Committee that meets regularly and works to reduce safety issues and to reduce worker's compensation claims. A lot of time and effort goes into that committee. Mr. Mumper returned to the right turn arrow issue by stating that citizens let people know if they go straight from the incorrect lane.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1. Grace Foster RE: Senior Center
Ms. Grace Foster of 1922 Hopkins Avenue spoke to council about the Senior Center. She stated that she has lived in Norwood for 30 years. She used to go downtown to Cincinnati's Senior Center, but it closed. She then decided to try the Norwood Center and it has been delightful. Socializing is very important for seniors. She said that she enjoys the socialization, the healthy meals and the exercise time. They often take trips in the van. The Norwood Senior Center is run very efficiently and is decorated nicely. It is delightful for her.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Schneider stated that he wanted to talk about the budget. He announced that at the last Finance Committee meeting, they slashed materials and supplies which takes away tools for the city. The budget we now have puts us in the black, but it has personnel cuts. The Finance Committee will start looking to see if they can put back any jobs at their next meeting and finish a budget to be sent for council's consideration at the next council meeting. He continued that dealing with a \$2,600,000 deficit is not easy. There are things that they would love to have that we potentially may have to cut. The committee is dedicated to meet until the job is done. Mr. Schneider announced that there may possibly be a meeting on Thursday, March 10th and there is already a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, March 15th. He hopes to have different solutions and answers to questions on different ways to get more money in the budget and save some jobs. Mr. Schneider reiterated that the city is still in a tough financial position and stated that the Finance Committee will take questions.

Mr. Sanker reminded everyone that the dates of the City Wide Street Sales are scheduled for May 20-21, 2011 and September 9-10, 2011. Mr. Schneider said that word of mouth is great advertising for the yard sale and stated that citizens with questions can e-mail the Clerk's secretary for information.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake announced that as the meeting was started, she was introduced to two people who are the liaisons for Congressman Chabot. She requested that Joe Abner, the Constituent Liaison, and Steven Hill, the Director of Community Outreach be permitted to address council to tell us how we can get in touch with Washington. On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Gabbard, it was moved to allow the representatives to address council. All members present voted, "Yes."

Mr. Abner thanked council for allowing them to speak. He stated that he works for Congressman Chabot in the Cincinnati office and deals with immigration and housing/HUD issues. Mr. Hill stated that he is the Community Outreach Director for Congressman Chabot. He appreciates the time to introduce themselves and let people know that if they have any difficulty with the federal government, to please call 684-2723 for assistance. From that office, the staff can handle social security, vet affairs, Medicare, HUD or IRS issues. He asked that anyone please call if they need support from their congressman. He stated that he, himself, has a local link to our community as he attended Norwood Baptist Christian School. He said to please call them with questions. Mr. Sanker stated that within the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds, our city gets a decent amount which helps with the Norwood Service League and with streetscape projects. He asked if this program is part of the federal budget cuts and if so, when they anticipate this program to be phased out. He also stated that there used to be other funds that came back to the community, but that amount has been reduced gradually. The communities that fund the federal government used to get funds back, but now they do not. He asked if there are any community

funds available and how we can apply for them. Mr. Hill answered that they can arrange a meeting to discuss that subject. They can assist us with locating grants. They would be happy to meet us to talk about alternative funding.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Ohio Division of Liquor Control RE: Transfer of Liquor Permit, Palcinci, LLC

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to not object to the permit unless the police have an objection. All members present voted, "Yes."

2. Letter form Earning's Tax Department RE: February 2011 Earnings Tax Report

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

3. Letter from the Mayor RE: Mayor's Court Fines

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

4. Letter from Joe Geers RE: Rebate Received from Worker's Compensation

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Mr. Mumper spoke to thank the Safety Committee and Mr. Geers for keeping it going. Mrs. Laake stated that the committee meets monthly. She was on the committee when she was with the Health Department. The committee reviews Workers' Compensation claims and tries to get people back to work earlier so it does not count against us. She stated that in 2006 and 2007, the committee discussed that the rebates could be used for safety improvements around the city and she hopes that will happen someday in the future. The committee also attends monthly meetings with the state. It is an investment of time for the committee members. She asked to amend the motion to send a letter of thanks to the committee. Mr. Mumper agreed to amend the motion and Mrs. Laake amended her 2nd. On the motion to receive and file the letter and send a letter of thanks to the Safety Committee, all members present voted, "Yes."

5. Letter from the Law Department RE: Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to go into executive session to discuss pending and threatened litigation. All members present voted, "Yes."

Council went into executive session.

Council was called back to regular session.

I) RECONSIDERATION OF VETOED ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 9-2011; ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLAIM OF MARK SPAULDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to remove the ordinance from the agenda and table to a time uncertain. All members present voted, "Yes."

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to excuse the Mr. Moore's absence. All members present voted "YES".

Q) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to adjourn. All members present voted YES.

Casey Brown
Clerk of Council

Jane M. Grote
President of Council