



**Norwood City Council
Council Chambers
May 10, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

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, all members were present.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Moore noted a typographical error on page 2 of the April 26th minutes, which should be changed from "spare" to "square". On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to approve the minutes from March 25, 2011 as if read and the minutes of April 26, 2011, with the noted correction, as if read. All members present voted "YES".

G) REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

None.

J) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

K) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Mayor's Report RE: Miscellaneous Business

The Mayor reported that during budget hearings we said that we would meet with the Auditor regularly on cash flow issues. Police personnel are down by 6 men and they expect 2 more openings this year. The Mayor said that it was mentioned cash flow could be a problem in November. The police have agreed to hold off doing any hiring until the first of June. They considered hiring 4 men but will go with 2 men to see how that works out. It sounds good to hire for those positions but if it hurts cash flow they will get by. The Auditor has handed out budgets to each department and asked department heads to set a meeting with the Auditor. The police have set up an appointment with the Auditor and they are having constant discussions.

The Mayor's office has been receiving complaints about potholes. Last week the Public Works Department received their first purchase order for hot mix. It has been ordered. With all the rain we've been having it may limit our opportunity to do patching.

On Highland Avenue there is a company called Perry and Derek which has become an issue. On April 28, it was discovered that there were a lot of chemicals there. The Building, Police, Fire and Health Departments responded. The State EPA responded to our call and they contacted the Federal EPA. A representative was sent down from Cleveland the same day. It was deemed to be a potential problem. In an event like this, the Fire Chief in charge of the site first and then it goes to the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner posted the site as being unfit for human habitation. The

Federal EPA has also posted restrictions. There is now a 24 hour guard on site, and a log is kept of who comes in and who goes out. There will be monitoring 24 hours a day. It was discussed if we should have a public meeting about this issue. The team met at the Health Department with the Law Department and the owners of the property. It was determined that there was no need for a public meeting at this time. They have determined what items in the building are corrosive, flammable, and hazardous. The Mayor thinks that there is no use in having a meeting until there is something to tell people. A U.S. attorney in Chicago is involved. Either the owner will do the cleanup with EPA sanctioned contractors or the EPA will do it. The situation is being monitored and all departments are checking regularly. The Law Department is coordinating legal issues with the Fire and Health Departments. We will have a meeting with the state EPA for the public, but we do have personnel in place to handle the issue. It will be cleaned up. The EPA will go back through the history of ownership of the site and will recoup any losses from the cleanup. The Mayor thinks that the city has done a good job handling this issue. Everyone was very professional and the situation was handled well. It is not a pleasant sight but it will be taken care of. The metropolitan sewer district may track sewer issues back to this site. He is here to assure the residents that it is being handled properly. Citizens can call the Mayor, Health Commissioner, Fire Chief or the Law Department with any questions Mrs. Laake asked the Mayor if the entire property is involved or just the factory. She said that she remembers there was a retail store there for a while. The Mayor answered that the heaviest contamination is in the back. A Norwood firefighter who used to work there and was familiar with the floor plan took the team through the plant. Mrs. Laake stated that she was glad to hear that we are working with the Federal EPA. They will go after potentially responsible parties to get the money to pay for the cleanup. Mr. Thornbury asked how long it has been since the site has been active. The Mayor stated that it has been vacant for five or six years. Originally it was the Continental Can Company. The retail building up front is different. It is on the EPA site with listings of drums. Chemists came from the EPA to investigate with \$1 million of equipment. When the plan is put together we will let everyone know. Mr. Moore asked when the plan will be put together. The Mayor answered that the attorneys in Chicago will talk to the present owners' attorneys. The two EPA agencies wanted this to be resolved soon as it is costing money to monitor. By law the property owners with the environmental issues have to use certified contractors to clean it up.

L) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

M) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

N) NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake announced that council members recently all received a positive email. She read the e-mail complementing the Public Works Department and Pete Tepe. The writer of the email, Don Luck, complemented their cooperation regarding care of the baseball fields. Don Luck is a coach of the Norwood Blue Devils. Mrs. Laake stated that she would like for Council to send a letter to the Public Works employees thanking them for their professionalism.

Mr. Schneider announced that the Relay for Life is this Friday at 6:00 PM and ends on Saturday at noon.

O) COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Division of Liquor Control RE: Annual renewal of licenses

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

2. Letter from Norwood Recreation Commission RE: Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

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

3. Letter from Earnings Tax Department RE: April 2011 Earnings Tax Report

On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to receive and file the letter. Mrs. Laake asked the Auditor if these numbers are on track with the numbers we anticipated. Mr. Stith answered that the year to date numbers are \$127,000.00 under our initial projections. The numbers are close but they're still under what we projected. On the motion to receive and file the letter, all members present voted, "yes."

4. Letter from Mayor

RE: Mayor's Court Fines

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

P) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

None.

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