



Norwood City Council Council Chambers September 13, 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, all members were present.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to amend the agenda to move ordinance #1 entitled "ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE AND THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLANS FOR PHASE I OF THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE, COVERED BY THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE OVER THE VICINITY OF EDWARDS ROAD AND EDMONDSON ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY" to immediately following the public hearing and to add as ordinances #3 and #4 both entitled "ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY", and to add as resolution #2 entitled "RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 AS "WEAR YOUR HELMET TO WORK/SCHOOL DAY" AND ENCOURAGING BICYCLE HELMET SAFETY." All members present voted, "Yes."

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion By Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to approve the minutes from August 9, 2011 as if read. Mrs. Laake pointed out that there was a typographical error for the name Judy Mullins. On the motion to approve the minutes, all members present voted, "Yes."

G) PUBLIC HEARING

ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE PHASE I AND PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR FUTURE PHASES

Ms. Grote opened up the public hearing for the Rookwood Exchange. She explained the council will not answer questions directly. People will have five minutes to speak. The developers are in attendance to make a presentation. The developers can come forward during the consideration of the ordinance. Ms. Grote called twice for those who wish to speak in favor of the Rookwood Exchange Project. Ms. Grote then called twice all those who wish to speak against the Rookwood Exchange Project. As no one came forward to speak for or against the project, Ms. Grote closed the hearing.

Introductory Reading of Ordinances #1

ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE AND THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLANS FOR PHASE I OF THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE, COVERED BY THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE OVER THE VICINITY OF EDWARDS ROAD AND EDMONDSON ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Ms. Grote invited the developers to come forward. J. R. Anderson stepped forward. He said there are a lot of drawings to discuss. J. R. Anderson, Inc. is the owner of this property known as Rookwood Exchange. The project has multiple phases. First Mr. Anderson stated he wants to orient everyone to the locations of the surroundings. The hotel and office sit along side I-71. They will pave the parking in the first phase. Mr. Anderson flipped to a larger scale size to show. We have preliminary and final PUD plans today. A Marriott Courtyard Hotel will be built in phase one along with a movie theater with a four level garage on top of the theater. J. R Anderson, Inc. will be the owners and operators of the hotel. Then in phase two they will build an office on top of the theater. There will also be a multi-story building and restaurants. Market conditions will dictate what goes there, but the Andersons propose retail and office space. To review, what is being proposed in the first phase is the Marriott Courtyard, a 16-screen theater, and a 300 space parking garage. There will be landscaping and parking, with a hotel there will be adequate parking spaces. The 123 room Marriott Courtyard has meeting space on the first floor. Mr. Anderson showed the elevations of the hotel as seen from I-71, Edmondson Road, and in the development. He showed an actual picture of a hotel in Nashville that is just like the one they plan to build here. He showed the plans of inside the hotel as approved by Marriott; it is a full service image hotel. The very big building on I-71 is an office tower. The theater will be on the first floor under the parking structure and will include a restaurant on the second floor that they will own and operate. There is a four level garage with 1000 spaces. You will be able to get to the parking garage from behind the theater with circulation within the garage. There will be a lobby area for the garage to get people to the restaurant and the theater. It will be 65,000 square foot theater and will have 70 foot wide extreme screen in the space of a traditional screen. Also unique to the theater on the second level will be a VIP area with five theaters for the 21 and over crowd who can bring alcohol and food into the theater. Service by the restaurant and bar will be offered there also. Mr. Anderson proceeded to show a picture of the garage. Visitor will be moved down to the theater using escalators and elevators. It is set up for the future with extra elevators for the office and a stair tower for the second hotel. They submitted a traffic report to ODOT and Norwood and Cincinnati. At Edmondson, there will be some widening of the road onto their property for right in-right out. Mr. Moore observed that the plans were missing the office component. He asked if there is a guarantee that we will see office space in the future. Mr. Anderson responded that we need 1000 spaces for the theater, but the garage needs the additional office space to help pay for it. We have been discussing a TIF for this. The project needs an office building so the economics of the project work. Norwood is a good place for office space. Today he cannot tell council when the office will be built, but they have a financial incentive to create the office product here. Their goal is to build a 175,000 square foot plus office building. We are overbuilding the garage to accommodate the office and feel we are starting up momentum by doing this. Mr. Anderson mentioned that since they will own the hotel and the theater, they have a financial incentive to build the garage. During this phase, we are subsidizing the cost of the garage. Mrs. Laake asked for Mr. Anderson to go back to the theater drawing. She wanted to confirm that in the first phase, parking will be a few levels above the theater. Mr. Anderson described how the parking garage looks. Above it is future office space with the preliminary plans showing an eight story building. Mrs. Laake clarifies that it is planned office space being shown on the drawing not all garage. Mr. Thornbury asked to confirm that there are potentially three hotels. Mr. Anderson said he's confident on two hotels. A market study showed good response for hotels. They will build them in phases. Mr. Thornbury asked what this will do from a tax revenue perspective. Mr. Anderson answered that the city just passed a 3% hotel tax plus you have the employee base. They did an analysis of the employee base. They assumed also the 3% tax times \$3 million in revenue for potential dollars. We are assuming the same amount of revenue for the second hotel. Mr. Moore noted that tonight we have a preliminary approval for the whole site. We only have final approval for the hotel, theater, and garage. Mr. Anderson said that he is correct. It is hotel, surface parking, theater, parking garage, more surface parking, service roads, and other access. Mr. Moore noted that what happens on the rest of the property will depend on the market, so we have no idea how this project may play out. Mr. Anderson said they will need additional final PUD's for other phases. Mr. Sanker asked if that is the only place there will be an office building. Mr. Anderson said there could be office space

elsewhere, but a majority of it will be on this location. Mr. Thornbury asked if once the first phase is done, is their potential for phase two and three to have office space. Mr. Anderson answered that is possible, but it is market driven. Mr. Moore asked about the timeline. He wanted to know when they see themselves completing the project. Mr. Anderson answered that they started grading this year and hope to have permits in place for the two structures by end of this year. Then they will build the hotel in ten to twelve months. The hotel is scheduled to open in October of next year and the theater is scheduled to open in December of next year. The plan is to have the project done by November 2012. Mr. Thornbury asked how common it is for developers to be the owners and operators. Mr. Anderson answered that it happens but is not as prevalent. He said his company is comfortable with the marketplace and they want to do it. Currently they operate ten restaurants. He said that they are partnering with people who have movie theaters and those who operate hotels. Mrs. Laake asked what will happen to the current roads that are in the space to be developed. Mr. Anderson answered that it is contemplated that the existing streets will be vacated and then rededicated back to the city and the developer will maintain them. Ms. Grote asked if the entrance will be directly off the I-71 exit or Edwards Road. Mr. Anderson answered that there will be no entrance at the I-71 ramp in. The main entrance will be at the traffic light. Hyde Park Avenue also has an entrance and a right in-right out will be at the Atlantic Avenue entrance. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Stoker about the analysis of traffic and parking. Mr. Stoker answered that the parking is adequate and market driven. Surface parking may or may not stay that way. There's possible future office space there. Mr. Moore asked where we are on the TIF agreement, the development agreement, and the street vacation for this project. The Mayor answered that we had a preliminary meeting with the bond counsel for the city and schools. He has not heard anything negative. They will go to the school board at their Thursday meeting and if all goes well it will come back to us. The state statutes change on the 29th of September so we will be on time constraints. He hopes we can meet on the 27th to pass this or hope we will call a Special Council Meeting Once we establish that the school board passes it, it will be Council's desire to decide how to proceed and perhaps with special meetings. Ms. Grote said we will dispose of this matter first and then deal with that. She reviewed the motion on the floor. Mr. Gabbard commented that this is a great project for Norwood. The Anderson's have had a great history with Norwood and he is glad they want to continue to work with us. He noted that with other projects since 2001, they went through the Community Development Committee. That is the citizen's opportunity to comment in an informal atmosphere. But council for the first time has seen it here today. Mr. Gabbard said he was discouraged that they did not go through the Community Development Committee to discuss. He noted that it was also not brought to Council so it could be put in committee and he's not sure who is responsible for that. He noted though that this is a great project and a wonderful day for Norwood. Mr. Gabbard said he will be talking to school board members and hopefully they will pass the TIF. Mr. Schneider asked if the Mayor could answer Mr. Gabbard's concerns. He noted that in years past, these projects did go through the Community Development Committee and reported out to Council with recommendations. But the Community Development meetings have not been happening because there has been no projects brought to them. Mr. Schneider stated that this came to the Mayor, but why did it not come to the Community Development Committee. The Mayor answered that he is not sure if it's a deviation. They came to us that the plan. We worked on the TIF and engineering over the past year. He didn't see the need to bring it to the Community Development Committee for that reason. When they came to discuss the possible TIF and theater, it wasn't complicated. He said he was not hiding it. Mr. Moore said that we have known about this since the public hearing was set. He stated that when he was chairman of the Community Development Committee, he would talk to the planning department when the city had one or with the Mayor. He said he thought it was the chairman's job to go ask about it. This is not the project we originally envisioned. Mr. Moore said he hopes this will become like Cornerstone to the extent that the original plans called for a restaurant and we got a spinal surgery center instead. He noted that he felt that having a Special Council Meeting is a better choice. If we have members out on September 27th, it might cause a problem. Mr. Gabbard clarified that he inquire if the project should go into the Community Development Committee but he was told it would not. On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to

pass the ordinance. Mr. Schneider agreed with Mr. Moore that the project will go well. The find building being brought to Norwood by the Anderson's will make this a great project. Mr. Schneider said that he appreciates all the Anderson's have done and hope to continue to work with them for Norwood. Mrs. Laake said she thinks it is a positive sign that the Anderson's will be the owners of the hotel and theater. She stated that it would be poetic justice if Crate and Barrel left the project they are in and came back to Norwood. She thanked the Anderson's for sticking with us. On the motion to pass the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes."

Ms. Grote asked if we want to call a special council meeting. Mr. Mumper stated that he thinks it would be the best thing and let's call it early. Ms. Grote answered that we can call them every night if needed. Mrs. Laake said that we will know on Thursday night if the school board passes the TIF. Ms. Grote confirmed that the issue is before the board on Thursday. Mrs. Laake stated that she wants to make sure she gets the documents ahead of time. After taking an informal poll, Ms. Grote stated that it appears either Monday or Wednesday is best. We will have a number of complicated documents to give Council time to review and give the Law Department time to prepare. Mr. Kiser added that they have reviewed all the documents so far in draft form. He assumes they are discussing how the school gets their money. He agreed that the members will need time to read the documents. Ms. Grote asked if the Anderson's had any preference on dates, which they did not. Ms. Grote proceeded to call a Special Meeting of Council for September 21 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers to discuss any ordinance for the Rookwood Exchange Project. Mr. Sanker asked the Mayor if he had a conflict. The Mayor answered that he has no conflict and as soon as we get the documents we will get them out. Mr. Kiser stated that because of the document length, if we get them Friday it will be tight on time. He asked that if anyone has questions to please call them at the Law Department.

H) REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS.

There were no requests.

I) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were no reports from standing committees.

J) SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF PART II OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, ENTITLED "PLANNING AND ZONING CODE."

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

2. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1121.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, ENTITLED "IDENTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL ZONING MAP" TO ADOPT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD.

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

K) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE AND THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLANS FOR PHASE I OF THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ROOKWOOD EXCHANGE, COVERED BY THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE OVER THE VICINITY OF EDWARDS ROAD AND EDMONDSON ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Considered after section G) Public Hearing.

2. ORDINANCE APPROVING AN EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NORWOOD EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Mr. Schneider stated that he has had numerous discussions with the Auditor to look at how the ERI was administered

and what was or wasn't done. It was an incentive program at one point but that became part of pie for the unions. We are trying to adopt this for the end of the year so the city can then talk to the unions. Mr. Schneider asked Mr. Stith for clarification on this issue. Mr. Stith answered that the initial plan was retroactive. It was submitted to PERS and their legal department said that it was invalid. According to PERS, a plan has a minimum run of one year and a minimum of a three-year buyout. This plan will start 90 days after passing and filing with PERS. It will run for one year and automatically terminate. That is the minimum they will accept. Mrs. Laake said that our OPERS outreach worker thought it was fine and the human resources workers thought it was fine and then the OPERS law department said no. There was a suggestion that the two law departments talk to each other. She asked Mr. Stith to comment on that. Mr. Stith said that all the discussions that were mentioned happened between his office and PERS. They thought we could do a retroactive plan. When it went to the PERS law department, they said no. We asked if we can appeal. They said the law departments should talk to each other. Our law department called them and they have not gotten back to them. Mr. Mumper said that this has been confusing since it started years ago. He said that he would like to see the wording in this ordinance that it supersedes the old one. He asked if anything was paid out based on the one we passed a couple of months ago. Mr. Stith answered that nothing has been paid out based on the last ordinance. Mr. Mumper asked Mr. Kiser if we could put the word supersede in there. Ms. Grote asked Mr. Mumper if he was moving to amend the ordinance. Mr. Mumper answered that he thinks so. He asked that perhaps we should add the word supersede to #29. Mr. Moore stated that he was really confused. The logic under which we passed the ordinance was that under the union contract we have to offer an ERI. The contract expires December 31 of this year. This will cover next year, but he thought we would want to take this out of contract negotiations. Mr. Sanker said that when we passed the last one our legal department did not recommend passing it. If we would have acted on the recommended ordinance without making it retroactive we would have one in place. Now we are backtracking. He's not sure this will be removed in union negotiations. He thinks if we pass this as is, it has to be in effect for full year. Mr. Mumper stated that Mr. Sanker just said the ordinance has to stay in effect for one year. He asked Mr. Kiser to clarify. Mr. Kiser said that he suspected what we send up would be rejected. If they reject it, you don't lose anything in terms of having a plan that would end at the end of this year. We would still have a one year plan to terminate before the end of next year. Mr. Mumper asked if we can cancel this in December. Mr. Kiser said that you have to file a plan that lasts at least one year, but we can cancel the plan with 30 days notice. He is not sure how they would interpret that. Mr. Mumper stated that he would like to amend the ordinance to say, "superseded" and read his suggestion. He asked what Mr. Kiser thought of that. Mr. Kiser said that he thinks it is a good idea. Our old plan will terminate sooner. Mr. Mumper made a motion to insert a section three stating, "This ordinance supersedes ordinance 29-2011, as ordinance 29-2011 was not accepted by OPERS." That motion was seconded by Mr. Thornbury. Mr. Kiser suggested that we cancel the old ordinance from 1997 as well. Mr. Mumper asked if we can add to the motion. Mrs. Brown read the amendment as such: "This ordinance supersedes ordinance 29-2011 and ordinance 79-1997, as ordinance 29-2011 was not accepted by OPERS." On the motion to amend the ordinance as read by Mrs. Brown, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the amended ordinance. Mr. Moore asked why we would need this today to cover eleven days at the end of the year. Mr. Schneider answered that we have an employee ready to retire and we have no plan in place recognized the OPERS. By passing this it gives us the ability to cancel the plan if it is negotiated out of the contract. Mr. Moore addressed Mr. Kiser and Mr. Stith by asking if we can pass the plan and send it to OPERS and cancel before the plan goes into effect. Mr. Kiser said that that is what he was saying before; he doesn't know how they will interpret that. They do have provisions that say you can cancel a plan with 30 days notice. The possibility to consider is if for eleven days if you leave it in the contract, it won't go into effect until 90 days after it is filed. If you wait two months to file a plan they may get it but we will have no plan on file. Mr. Schneider stated that we're talking about union 914 and 3278. In the past, we have not completed contract negotiations by the end of the year and their current contracts carried over. He asked the Mayor if he thinks negotiations will be completed by the end of the year. The Mayor answered that would be a definite maybe and that he cannot predict how negotiations

will go. Mr. Mumper said there are other means for our retirees to get their ERI. They could contact an attorney on their own. We can do something then after a judge compels us to. We're trying to save money. He thinks it doesn't make sense to have this. He thinks the window of opportunity doesn't matter and someone can wait eleven days to retire. Mrs. Laake asked Mr. Kiser if his office contacted the OPERS legal department and that the OPERS law department did not return the call. Mr. Kiser answered that that is correct. On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance, the motion failed with Mr. Thornbury, Mrs. Laake, Mr. Gabbard, and Mr. Schneider voting, "Yes," and Mr. Moore, Mr. Mumper, and Mr. Sanker voting, "No." Six votes were required to pass the motion. No other motion was made.

3. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This ordinance is for the grass cutting billed out on June 14, 2011. On a motion by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

4. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK/TREASURER TO CERTIFY UNPAID BILLS FOR THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR FILING AS A LIEN ON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF THE OWNER(S) OF SAID PARCELS AND TO BE COLLECTED AS OTHER TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This ordinance is for the grass cutting billed out on June 20 2011. On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

INTRODUCTORY READING OF RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION DECLARING IT TO BE THE DESIRE OF COUNCIL THAT HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT BE CELEBRATED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 PM AND 8:00 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution. Mrs. Laake asked if we may have the first reading in its entirety. The motion was amended. On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution with the first reading in its entirety, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, a seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to pass the resolution. All members present voted, "Yes."

2. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 AS "WHERE ARE YOUR BIKE HELMET TO WORK/SCHOOL DAY" AND ENCOURAGING BICYCLE HELMET SAFETY.

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution with the first reading in its entirety. Mr. Gabbard joked with the Mayor asking him if he will wear his helmet to work. Mrs. Laake explained that Cincinnati Children's Hospital is involved in this to reduce unintentional injuries. This came to their attention. The Health Department and the Police will take part in this. Helmets remaining from "National Night Out" will be given out at events at the schools. Mr. Mumper read the slogan which is "Put A Lid On It." On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution with the first reading in its entirety, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to pass the resolution. All members present voted, "Yes."

L) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Auditor's Report

RE: Financial Issues Concerning the City

The Auditor said he attended a hearing to discuss the tax budget and the deficit of \$1,470,000.00. He received an update on property tax projections and it was much lower than anticipated. They want to know what we will do about the deficit and we addressed that. The city is also exploring the option of refinancing bond debt to U.S. Bank of \$859,000.00 due next year. The county did not make suggestions. As we close out August 2011, we close out with advances on property taxes. We received the balance of property tax and it was lower than what the county projected. Year-to-date revenue reflects a decrease of \$211,000.00 through earnings tax and property tax. It is 1.1% below where we wanted to be. When we look at the city cash flow and the monthly large expenses that we expect, September is a very tight month, as we have three payrolls. If we pay all our bills on time, it will be difficult to make the last payroll this month. We are working to see what we can save on to be able to make payroll. Some departments do not have enough appropriations to make it to the end of the year, so anything to save money now to make it through the end of the year will help. The reports are on his website as well as the budgetary update. Mr. Moore noted that most departments have spent most of their money by now. He asked if it is the case where their cash ran out or if they have encumbered it. Mr. Stith answered that everyone has outstanding purchase orders which are encumbered. If there is an emergency, we suggest which ones they can close out and redo a new purchase order for. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Stith that since he mentioned that by the end of September it will be difficult to make payroll and pay expenses as they come in, he wants to clarify if we're up to date on payments. Mr. Stith answered that we're up to date on those in the general fund, but the bond debt payment is automatic. Not all of our bills are up to date but none are past 90 days. We allocate for payroll and then start paying old bills or important ones. We pay things like health care, C-9 trust, etc. Then we pay leases and other bills next. We try to stay caught up. We will probably not be as vigorous this month in paying them so that we can make payroll. We will also pay police and fire pensions which are due this month.

2. Mayors report

RE: Miscellaneous Business

The Mayor reported that along with the Auditor, three weeks ago we sent a letter to the Police, Fire, and Public Works regarding financial issues and instructed the bargaining units to discuss issues and meet with the Auditor. Maybe the department heads can meet with the finance committee to discuss end of year and first quarter of next year. As Mr. Stith said, we know the end of September will be rough.

The Mayor swore in the new Police Chief, Bill Kramer. The Mayor asked that we give him a few weeks to settle in and then he will come to Council.

On September 11, the Mayor was invited to Ashland Avenue Church for their 60th anniversary. It was enjoyable. He also went to Holy Trinity Church for services that day to remember 9/11. It was a solemn day but the attendees at Ashland were excited and it lifted the spirits.

The Mayor said we have block grant money to use. We have \$68,000.00 for streetscape. We will use that to replace trees and signs on Montgomery Road and we will paint traffic pole signs. He's also requesting a resolution for the next meeting to advertise for bids for a senior van. We also have park improvements that we applied for and have been granted. Most are in the Lower Millcrest Park area. They want a shelter and playground equipment. In Upper Millcrest Park, they want some additional equipment. We have \$300,000.00 for street improvements. Regarding Park Avenue, it was a \$2 million project. We have scaled it back. It was referred to the Finance Committee because we have a \$700,000.00 grant for Park Avenue and we have \$300,000.00 in block grant funds. We can have a \$1 million project. We need \$100,000.00 for engineering. We had to drop other street projects.

Mrs. Laake stated that we need to discuss the \$68,000.00 for streetscape. She stated that the tree board is going out for bids on trees on Norwood Avenue. Tree trimming on Montgomery Road was done such that the trees will be dead soon. The Mayor stated that we can discuss that, but he wants the painting done. Mrs. Laake stated that the tree board is waiting to see what they can spend on trees, but have several locations they want to look at.

Mr. Mumper asked what the dollar figure is on improvements to Millcrest Park. The Mayor stated that they are asking for a total of \$100,000.00 for the parks.

The Mayor received a phone call from school superintendent Rob Amodio asking about flashing lights around the schools. We have some bids on these. We have stepped up radar enforcement around schools.

Mrs. Laake asked the Mayor to clarify that the \$100,000.00 is out of CDBG funds as well as the senior van and the \$68,000.00 for streetscape. The Mayor answered, "Yes." Mr. Gabbard said he would like an update on issues that Surry Square is having with panhandling. The Mayor answered that the lot seems no better or worse than others. He wants to discuss panhandling with the Police and the Law Department. He has heard comments about employees too. Sometimes Kroger's will work with us, sometimes not. We have to go through central management to discuss issues.

M) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

There were no requests.

N) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Laake reported on street calming around Sharpsburg. They have been working with Hamilton County Engineers and looking at it with traffic flow. The recommendation is to repaint the crosswalks. She will bring it to Committee of the Whole when there is a more complete package.

Mr. Moore asked Mrs. Laake for the status on the Good Landlord Program. Mrs. Laake said they have broken into committees and are doing work. They are looking at ordinances with the Law Department, amnesty programs, and grant funding but she couldn't find any grants available. Officer Stein is also looking for grants and cannot seem to find any. She plans to make contact with Judge Mock to see if perhaps he knows of additional funding streams. The plan is to meet at the end of October.

O) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

P) COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Mrs. Grote welcomed back the Xavier University students.

Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

No members were absent.

R) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted, "Yes."

*Casey Brown **

Casey Brown
Clerk of Council

*Jane M. Grote **

Jane M. Grote
President of Council

*** Original copy was approved by council and signed by Ms. Brown and Ms. Grote during the regular Council Meeting held on November 22, 2011 and can be viewed at the Clerk of Council Office, 4645 Montgomery Rd, Room 205, Norwood, OH 45212**