



Norwood City Council Council Chambers October 25, 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 Mrs. Laake, it was moved to place the Committee of the Whole report immediately following the public hearing and to move the request to address Council from Commissioner Hartman to the first order of business following the Committee of the Whole report and to remove the request from Joseph Abner from Steve Chabot's office from the agenda as he could not attend due to a family emergency. 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 the October 11, 2011 meeting as if read. Mr. Schneider said he would abstain, as he was not at the meeting. On the vote, Mr. Moore, Mr. Thornbury, Mrs. Laake, Mr. Mumper, Mr. Gabbard and Mr. Sanker voted, "Yes", AND Mr. Schneider abstained.

G) PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL

Ms. Grote announced that she was opening the public hearing for the public to comment on the projects proposed for the Community Development Block Grant. She explained the procedures for the public hearing. Council will consider the proposals after the public hearing. She called twice for anyone who wished to address Council to come forward. No one came forward to comment. Ms. Grote announced that the public hearing was now closed.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1. Committee of the Whole RE: CDBG Proposed Projects

Mrs. Laake, committee chair, read the report of the Committee of the Whole committee regarding proposed CDBG projects for 2012-2014, stating that Council asked for continued funding for projects approved in the past and to include funds for clearance and demolition. The projects were stated as follows, for each year included in the application: youth dental program, \$10,000.00 each year, Norwood Service League, \$15,000.00 each year, streetscapes, \$20,000.00 each year, streets, curbs and sidewalks, \$100,000.00 each year, Parks, \$50,000.00 each year, clearance and demolition, \$55,000.00 each year. On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to accept the report and that Council approve the proposed projects as stated in the report and to be included for application. Mrs. Laake noted, as a follow-up that she found out an ordinance is not required to approve the projects. She spoke with the Mayor and Jennifer Vatter and she confirmed that we do not need an ordinance and approving the projects by motion is sufficient. She noted she misses Mr Dettmer's input on the process. Following tonight's meeting, if we approve this, there is an application Mrs. Vatter will complete with the administration's input. Mr. Mumper inquired if by approving the report that will do it. Mrs. Laake confirmed that approving the report with the projects listed is sufficient. Ms. Grote clarified the motion and that it states to

approve the projects. Mrs. Laake noted there were several projects that were great like recreation projects and the Millcrest Park project. In her conversations with the county personnel we will at best get \$200,000. We listed them in order of importance. We wanted to give the projects listed the best chance of getting funded. The demolition amount was added later and may be reduced. The streetscape project funds are used for the tree board. The Norwood Service League and the dental program rely on this funding. Mrs. Laake asked if the Mayor had a comment. The Mayor said he was approached by Deb Robinson that they are looking for \$50,000 for drug intervention and prevention. But that request came too late. She had sent an in depth email explaining how it would be used. He agrees it is needed but it did not come to light in time. The idea is to educate kids and parents about the drug problem. The Mayor noted that maybe it is something in future we can consider. Mr. Schneider mentioned the letter he sent in for bus stop funding and improvements. He still thinks it is critically important. The city used recycling funds in the past to buy benches made of recycled materials on Montgomery Road. He would like garbage cans placed at certain areas. He thinks the city should embrace bus service. He hopes the administration and future council will keep that in mind. He feels we can't neglect it and it won't go away. Mrs. Laake said there were many good projects to consider. She noted that Mr. Gabbard had talked about revitalizing the city hall auditorium and council chambers. She thought that if other communities did not participate that meant more dollars for us, but the region only gets money based on the population of all the areas that participate. She would also like to address the Mayor's concern. She thinks it is an excellent project. She noted that sometimes at end of the CDBG cycle there are funds left that maybe we could get for other projects. She would be happy to contact them to see if funds were available later. On the motion to approve as stated all members present voted, "Yes."

J) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Commissioner Hartman RE: Identity Theft

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to permit Commissioner Hartman to address Council with as much time as needed. All members present voted, "Yes."

Commissioner Hartman thanked Council for their time and work in difficult times. About a year and a half ago the commissioners noticed an explosion in fraud in the community. Commissioner Hartman noted he would discuss a slide presentation he had. (Copies of the slides can be found in the Norwood Clerk of Council's office.) The plan was put together and is listed as a resource on the county website. Part of the plan is getting out in communities to enlist residents' help. There are planned events throughout the county. He noted that 15 tons of documents were shredded on October 22, 2011 during the county shredding day which was the October event. Using the social media to communicate, we do these presentations to enlist help from elected officials. Criminals take advantage of our most vulnerable. He then introduced Leslie Kish whose agency is a partner to stop abuse.

Leslie Kish from the Better Business Bureau discussed identity theft with a presentation. She noted that everyone is at risk. Never give out personal information to people you don't know. She asked that we distribute information to the community as needed. Mrs. Laake inquired if all through 2011 there are presentations scheduled. Commissioner Hartman said that he and his team go all over the county to make presentations. You can see the plan on their website. Events are published on the website and the media covers events. Cintas donated the service for that shredding day. Mr. Thornbury asked if the website is that one touch point to get more information. Commissioner Hartman said that it is a comprehensive site to get information. The Better Business Bureau is also a source. Mrs. Laake commented that listening tonight she has noticed some mistakes that she makes. Mr. Thornbury said that he once personally saved up a lot of things to shred and it was a huge effort to find someplace to take it. He asked if there was some effort to do this event regularly. Commissioner Hartman answered that this was the second event. They shredded 25 tons for the whole year. They will try to do the shredding event quarterly. Mrs. Laake said that she is on the board for the Norwood Business and Professional Women's Club, and they have discussed doing a shred event as a service to the community.

Ms. Grote announced a five minute recess to allow all the equipment for the slide presentation to be taken down.

Council returned from the five minute recess.

H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

2. Finance Committee RE: 2011 Appropriations Changes

Mr. Schneider read the report from the Finance Committee. The report recommended that the ordinance and attachment be discussed and passed. This is necessary for the city to continue to meet its financial obligations. On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to accept the committee report. Mr. Schneider said that there is a request from the Clerk of Council to make a change to the attachment to comply with changes in the state law for advertising ordinances. We will discuss this issue more when we discuss the ordinance. On the motion to accept the report, all members present voted, "Yes."

3. Finance Committee RE: 2012 Temporary Appropriations

Mr. Schneider read the report on the 2012 temporary appropriations. The committee recommends that Council review, discuss, and pass the temporary appropriations to get the city started in 2012. On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to accept the report. Mr. Schneider stated that due to the fact that we have only a few regular meetings scheduled for the rest of the year, and assuming the Council will want to give the Treasurer and Auditor time to look over how we close out 2011, we are working with temporary appropriations. It is a good time now to get it out there so it can be discussed. We can have one reading or all three and move forward. On the motion to accept the report, all members present voted, "Yes."

I) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2011, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Ms. Grote asked if the amendment was to the ordinance or to the exhibit. Mr. Schneider answered that it was to the exhibit only.

Mr. Thornbury seconded the motion. Mr. Schneider said there are some changes that occurred that will cost us money. The Law Department decided it was necessary to legally advertise ordinances and not just post them at the five locations. The Clerk's Office got with the Law Director and discussed this and the Law Director said we have to advertise in the paper again. We are back to being required by law to post in the paper. He noted that Mrs. Schirmer has asked that we move funds of \$700.00 from Council's contractual key to the Clerk of Council's contractual key so that that money can be used. Mr. Schneider stated the Law Director has said we need to do it, but he inquired if we want to amend. Mrs. Laake stated that she recalled that the state was going to provide a website for us to post on. Mr. Sanker thinks it is HB-158 where they determined we have this requirement. He hasn't seen it or who sponsored it, and said usually the Ohio Municipal League would notify us. Maybe someone can ask the OML how other communities are doing it. He noted the law department says we have to publish in the paper now. It will cost us more now with potentially more ordinances tied to our development growth. Mr. Mumper said that he thinks maybe we should have been notified before it was passed. He would like to fight it. Mr. Mumper asked the Mayor for a comment. The Mayor said that he agrees with Mr. Mumper. The state cut off funds and then put mandates on us. He offered to make calls to the state senators for this. Ms. Grote advised Council that before her involvement in council, we had a clerk in the past who did not publish ordinances and all the ordinances were declared invalid. This was in the late 1960's and the early 1970's. Our entire criminal code was declared invalid. She would suggest things like appropriations ordinances be published because that was a large expense to the city to resolve. Mrs. Laake stated that she is going to OML training on Thursday and she can raise the question there. As a comment, she thinks people are more likely to see when they are posted in the city rather than when they are posted in the paper. Mr. Moore shares the concern, as there is one attorney who is interested in technicalities of posting ordinances. He's not sure what else we have to publish. If it turns out we need to do it then we will do it. Mr. Moore asked how much money was being asked to move. Mr. Schneider stated that Mrs. Schirmer has asked for \$700.00 to be shifted from one key to the other. Mr. Mumper asked why our local paper would not qualify. Mrs. Brown, Clerk of Council, answered that it must be in a paper

that is published weekly. The Star only publishes monthly. We would use them if we could, but we cannot. Mr. Mumper asked if we post them online if it qualifies. Mrs. Brown answered that as Mrs. Laake mentioned, the state did set up a website to post on, but it is not functioning yet. But that was an additional thing that they added. When they redid that law they changed some wording that causes us to have to publish in the paper. This is what brought up the debate. The Law Department feels that we have to do it again. Ms. Grote repeated the motion and asked if Council wants to change the exhibit to move \$700.00 from Council's contractual key which was left over from the Walter Drane codification and will not be used. She thinks there is enough right now to publish what we have left. Mrs. Brown stated that Mrs. Schirmer thinks there might be enough to publish what might be passed tonight. We do not know for sure what might be passed tonight, but we think there is enough. We did already pay to post all the public hearings that are coming up. Mr. Sanker stated that he thinks we shouldn't publish right away if possible. We can move the funds as a precautionary measure to keep our ordinances from becoming invalid. We can move it back if we do not expend it immediately. Ms. Grote added that under the ORC an ordinance does not become effective until it is published or posted. The clerk has ten days after the Mayor signs it to publish it. Mr. Mumper asked if we have the amendment in writing. Mr. Sanker suggested we continue the current process while we look into the new process. Mr. Schneider said that he has written the change down on the exhibit "A" to change by moving the \$700.00. Then we should publish as necessary. Ms. Grote said that we have changed the exhibit and need the key numbers. Mr. Schneider gave Ms. Grote the key numbers. Ms. Grote said the exhibit has now been changed. Mr. Moore asked to review the keys to make sure they're been transferred from and into the proper keys. Mrs. Brown stated the keys that are increasing and decreasing as confirmed with the auditor and written on her exhibit A. 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. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

2. ORDINANCE MAKING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO FOUR OF THE CALENDARING YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2012.

On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Moore stated that, while he hasn't looked at this closely, he is guessing this is about three months or 25% of the various keys on an annual basis and that the subsidy and miscellaneous is funded for the full year. He asked Mr. Schneider if he was correct on that. Mr. Schneider answered that the committee used the same process that was used in years past. Mr. Stith put this together on Mr. Schneider's request. Mr. Schneider said that he asked Mr. Stith to look at the first three months of last year. We had a lot of changes in temporary appropriations because of items unknown. Mr. Schneider deferred the question to Mr. Stith for details. Mr. Stith told Mr. Moore that he is partially correct that the major keys like materials and supplies and personnel are funded at 25% of the annual budget. In miscellaneous, gas and electric, and fixed miscellaneous expenses they may have the full amount that is required for that year so we can encumber those expenses to make sure the dollars are there. An example is that for the debt service payments. Of the subsidy to EMS it is the full amount for the entire year. Any fixed expenses for the entire year like cell phone bills are all there. We did it that way last year and looked at some changes we did last year. For the funds outside of the general fund we took the existing plus projected revenue to get the fund amounts. Mrs. Laake noted that it looks like something got cut off under miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Stith stated that the heading got cut off for the "retirees' health care." Mr. Schneider added that the heading is cut off only and the key is fully funded. Mr. Stith stated that the heading should say "2011 Retiree's Health Care Fixed Charges." Mrs. Laake asked if we need to amend the ordinance. Mrs. Grote answered that it is only the exhibit that is changing and it is a typo not a substantive change. On the motion to have the first reading of the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes."

3. ORDINANCE CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE FIRE AGENCY FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Schneider asked to clarify why we need this and

where it came from. He said he is under the impression that Mr. Stith can give us input on it. Mr. Stith answered that this was requested by the Treasurer's office after a discussion with the State Auditor. It came up after the finance meeting. He explained that an agency fund is a fund to hold money that has to flow through our books. The Treasurer received a check for \$9,500.00 for a house fire. The insurance company insuring that property has to put money into a fund for the city. The city has to hold that certain amount of money. If the building is not repaired in a certain amount of time, that money can be used by the city to do repairs or demolish the building. We have this check and nowhere to put it. The Treasurer's office spoke to the State Auditor and they said if you hold it and if repairs are then done by the property owner it goes back to the insurance company or if no repairs are done it goes to the city to do repairs and you need a separate fund. The Treasurer's office talked to his office and we needed this passed if we're going to hold the check. We would then create sub-keys in the fund with the address of the property. Mr. Thornbury commented that now that we have such an excellent explanation for this, he finds it unacceptable to have something like this without an explanation included. If we had that explanation from the Treasurer's office prior to the meeting, he would have been willing to make an initial motion for three readings. Mr. Thornbury moved to amend his motion and moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. Mr. Schneider withdrew his second. Mr. Mumper seconded Mr. Thornbury's motion. Mr. Schneider said that it is not like the city just started. What changed here that all of a sudden we have this issue. Mr. Schneider questioned how we dealt with these checks in the past. He asked what it will be used for and said that he doesn't understand why it is just came up now. Mr. Stith said that he will do his best to answer the question, but he was not the one who discussed the issue with the State Auditor. He was not aware of what was happening until he had discussions today with the Treasurer's office. Mr. Stith said it is his understanding we have to do this now because someone asked the State Auditor what to do with the check. They have told us that you have to set up this other fund and that you have to do it this way. The laws and regulations as to how to classify funds change frequently. We just had a few changes a few years ago for TIF funds because of the change in regulations. Mr. Stith said he's not sure how this was done before as it was not done in his office. All he knows is that the state said this is how we have to do it. 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 Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

4. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$100,000) DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND A SHELTER AT UPPER AND LOWER MILLCREST PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to put the ordinance in the Parks and Playgrounds Committee. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Schneider why he wants this to go to committee. Mr. Schneider answered that this has to do with parks and playgrounds. This ordinance is trying to allocate \$100,000.00 and he's not sure where that comes from. This has to do with buying playground equipment and work in the park. That committee should be involved and it should start with them to come up with a plan. Right now it is just saying, "Let's throw \$100,000.00 at it" and we don't know what that will do for us. The committee can finalize that and then go to the Finance Committee to discuss paying for it and figure out the vehicle for payment, if it is a grant or what it is. Mr. Moore said that he thinks that there is some error that the committee should be involved. A process started in August with a group of people who live near the park and they had a meeting. Those residents talked about it at the CDBG hearing previously and he assumes it was discussed in the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Moore continued that it would have been nice if the Parks and Playgrounds Committee was involved, but it should have been taken to them sooner. Mr. Moore asked the Mayor how this came together. The Mayor answered that this is block grant money which was discussed for months. It is a shelter and playground equipment. This is block grant money and no city money is involved. There is a time constraint. It has been discussed and projects have been proposed and funded and they weren't sure if they had to be bid out. Mr. Schneider asked the Mayor when this went before the

Recreation Commission. He asked if they were for it and if the executive director was involved. Mr. Schneider stated that he would have thought we would have a letter of endorsement on the project from the Recreation Commission. The Mayor answered that he's not sure that the Recreation Commission is involved in it. They are not putting in any money. He believes Mr. Geers had a conversation with Ms. Wallace. This is not a secret. The Mayor stated that he does not understand the problem. He has had conversations with individuals promoting the park and they wanted a larger shelter. Mrs. Laake stated that she is hesitant to pass this ordinance because at the Committee of the Whole she assumed we were OK with putting out the stated requests in the committee report for CDBG funds. She noted that Mr. Eilermann was upset because he did not get a chance to speak at the Committee of the Whole, as the Friends of Millcrest had some specific requests. Mrs. Laake said that she tried to stop by today to talk to him, but didn't get to talk to him. She said she would not mind a first reading or a first and second reading. Mrs. Laake said she wants to make sure the Friends of Upper Millcrest were involved in the process. Mr. Schneider opined that he thinks we should advertise for bids first. It should be formulated first with that group or the Parks and Playgrounds Committee. But when you say, "bid and enter into a contract" that is when the city gets in trouble. As with any other entity that uses taxpayer dollars, when something gets built and dollars get wasted, the taxpayers get mad because they didn't hear anything about the details before the work is done. Mr. Schneider does not think anything was done secretly, but he does not know the plans. It is hard for him to say, "Spend \$100,000.00" when he doesn't have enough information and it isn't free money. This goes against everything he stands for as a representative of the citizens. He said he would say to the Mayor to tell the safety Service Director to put out to bids first. He is all in favor of using CDBG funds for city's benefit. Mr. Schneider averred that he is not interested in writing a blank check. This issue should be put in committee so they can bring out the plans. Giving a blank check is wrong. Mr. Moore asked the Mayor if he could explain the involvement of the residents that had been working on the project. The Mayor answered that they wanted a larger shelter. Mr. Eilerman did not want to run out of time for the project and he didn't want to jeopardize it. The Mayor thinks this is not blowing taxpayer money. Mr. Schneider said that again we have an ordinance that we have to pass tonight. He said it's like a gun put to our head that says we have to pass it now. Mr. Schneider thinks this is not right. It is the wrong way to proceed with a project of this magnitude and as a \$100,000.00 project he expects the city to do this right. Mr. Sanker recommended a motion to do all three readings. Ms. Grote stated that the motion is to put the ordinance into committee and we have to dispose of that first. Mr. Sanker said he's not making a motion. Mr. Schneider said we have a few meetings left until the end of the year to do this. He recommends they go to committee so the chair can hold a meeting. Mr. Moore asked what the timing of this ordinance is. The Mayor answered that he is not sure, but it is a gamble. Mrs. Laake stated that if it is coming from CDBG funds, the new cycle starts in March so you have to spend the funds by the end of February. The funding cycle ends at the end of February. On the motion to put the ordinance into the Parks and Playgrounds Committee, the motion passed with Mr. Thornbury, Mrs. Laake, Mr. Gabbard, and Mr. Schneider voting, "Yes," and Mr. Moore, Mr. Mumper, and Mr. Sanker voting, "no."

INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CARL H. LINDNER, JR AND DECLARING NOVEMBER 24, 2011, "CARL H. LINDNER, JR DAY."

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution with the first reading being in its entirety. All members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Mumper, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to pass the resolution. Mr. Gabbard said he would like to give the Mayor the opportunity to share his thoughts about Mr. Lindner. The Mayor stated that during all of the recognition Mr. ~~Linder~~ Lindner was given, it was for the money he gave. He noted the city never asked him for anything. Being the Mayor gave him the opportunity to speak with Mr. Lindner directly. Mr. Lindner never said anything bad about anyone. His faith would guide him. The Mayor said he is proud to say he was my friend. We have lost a kind and benevolent man. Mrs. Laake asked to share a story. Mrs. Laake's husband worked for Mr. Lindner at Provident Bank so she was able to meet him there. One time, Mr. Lindner was in Norwood for a dinner and she went to thank him and Mr. ~~Linder~~ Lindner had gold cuff links on and showed her that on the

back they said, "Always remember from where you came." Mr. Schneider said he had the honor of shaking Mr. Lindner's hand at the Norwood Parade. Mr. Lindner attended many parades and Mr. Schneider was interested to know how many he attended. Mrs. Grote said that she has been involved in twenty parades and Mr. Lindner was that all of them except for the past two years. Charles Geraci told her a story that in 1987 when GM. announced that the plant was closing, the chamber of commerce named Mr. Lindner as grand marshal. Mr. Lindner said he would make it the best parade ever. He paid for 4 large floats in the parade; one for each of his four companies. Mr. Thornbury said that he had the privilege of being associated with the Norwood Service League. People may not be aware of how important Mr. Lindner's support was to the NSL. He was a bedrock of the NSL. Mrs. Grote stated that she has also worked on the Norwood Fireworks for many years and no city money has ever been used. Eight years ago, Mr. Lindner gave a donation for that year because he heard it was to be a short show so he didn't want anything but the best and doubled his contribution. Then he made a very generous donation that has enabled the fireworks show for the last six years and for many years to come. When many communities had to cancel fireworks in 2011, we were still able to do ours without city money and because of his generous donation. On the motion to pass the resolution, all members present voted, "Yes."

I) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Mayor's Report

RE: Miscellaneous Business

The Mayor announced that there are two trusts set up from Mr. Lindner. One is for Lindner Park and one is for Waterworks Park. The Mayor told a story of how he met Mr. Lindner at the park and he knew he was coming because of his vehicles. At the park a little girl thanked him for the Allison School computer equipment. Another person thanked him for the tennis courts.

The friends of Millcrest Park will have a celebration on October 30 from 12:30-2:30 PM.

Linden Pointe will have a historical marker dedication tomorrow. The wording for the marker was provided by Mr. Thornbury. It will be at the corner of the property.

The Veterans Day Parade will come through Norwood on November 6th. It will be at Victory Park at 2:00 PM.

Two recent accidents have happened; one on Sherman Avenue and one on Robertson Avenue. In the Norwood Police Department, we have a major accident team. Sergeant Stein is the head of it. He is considered an accident reconstructionist. He can testify in court as an expert. This team has been in existence for fifteen years. Everyone in an accident is entitled to the best report that can be given. The Mayor said he does not know of any time when one of Sergeant Stein's reports was challenged.

The national average of increase in cost for medical insurance is 15%. After a discussion with the insurance company regarding the city's insurance, the retirees will go up 3% and for the employees there will be no increase. Mrs. Laake asked the Mayor if he's still using ~~Huran~~ Horan and Associates as negotiators. She noted that in the past the insurance company asked for huge increases. There was a committee formed to look at it. She agreed this was good news. The Mayor answered that we lowered the insurance cost by negotiating higher deductibles. He said he does not want this to be taken for granted, and he thinks we are fortunate to have no increase. He stated that he's not sure what the average increase is in our area. Mrs. Laake asked if there was any change in coverage. The Mayor answered, "No." Mr. Mumper gave kudos to the employees saying that this is a reflection of their usage of the insurance. The Mayor stated that the users will pay more out of pocket. It takes a few years to even out.

K) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

L) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gabbard stated that he is excited to hear that this Thursday the Cincinnati Magazine Best Lists come out and the number one pizza is Betta's and the number five was Sorrento's. Both are in Norwood and in the top five.

Mr. Schneider announced that the Norwood Recreation Commission is having a fundraiser tomorrow at Angelo's Pizza. The Recreation Commission will get 10% of all sales. They also have a basketball tournament to schedule. It will be a three-on-three tournament. You can call the Recreation Department for more information at 531-9798.

M) COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Joe Geers

RE: Workers Compensation Rebate

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to send a letter of thanks to the Safety Committee. Mr. Schneider added that he would like the letter sent to each member of the committee. Mrs. Laake said that is fine. She is familiar with this committee. There are nine to ten people on the committee. They meet every month, go to training, and discuss claims. Mr. Schneider said he thinks it is more impactful to send each individual a letter. On the motion to receive and file the letter and to send a letter of thanks to each member of the committee, all members present voted, "Yes."

2. Letter from Earnings Tax Department

RE: September 2011 Earnings Tax Report

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

Ms. Grote reminded everyone that the November 8, 2011 council meeting has been canceled and she urges the citizens to get out and vote.

N) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

All members were present.

O) 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**

*Jane M. Grote**

Casey Brown
Clerk of Council

Jane M. Grote
President of Council

*** Original copy was approved, as amended 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**