



## Norwood City Council Council Chambers December 28, 2010

### **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 MEETINGS**

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting as if read. All members present voted, "Yes."

### **G) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests.

### **H) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

#### **1. Finance Committee**

RE: 2010 Budget

Committee Chair Victor Schneider read the report that the committee recommended changes to the 2010 appropriations by the ordinance with the attached Exhibit A as provided by the Auditor. On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to accept the report. All members present voted, "Yes."

### **I) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES**

#### **1. ORDINANCE MAKING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2011 TO MARCH 31, 2011.**

On a motion by Mr. Thornbury, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to have the third reading of the ordinance. Mr. Moore stated that this is a temporary appropriation and wanted to clarify with a question to Mr. Schneider that this is to keep the city running and does not make any drastic changes in the operating budget at this time. He noted that we are expecting a shortfall for 2011. Mr. Schneider responded that no one is exactly sure how serious the shortfalls will be. The city only at this time has projections that indicate shortfalls for 2011. These changes will get us through to next year so we can finalize the numbers and figure out where money can be spent. He noted that we know there are areas in January and February where Council will have to make changes to the temporary 2011 budget. On the previous motion, all members present voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes."

### **J) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

#### **1. ORDINANCE ADOPTING NEW SECTION 151.02 ENTITLED "APPLICATION FEES" TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, TO ESTABLISH APPLICATION FEES TO COVER THE COST OF ENTRY LEVEL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS, AS AMENDED.**

On a motion by Mr. Sanker, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to have a second reading on the ordinance. Mr. Schneider stated that the Civil Service Commissioner has reservations about this ordinance. Mr. Schneider stated that the Civil Service Commissioner makes a good point that testing is done to keep government jobs open to

all of the populace. Mr. Schneider noted though that he still stands by the fact that Norwood City entry level jobs are coveted. This is a great place to work and get experience. There are an overwhelming number of applicants for our entry level positions. He feels that the city can't be a testing place only; the applicant should really want the job. Mr. Schneider supports this ordinance. On the motion, all members present voted, "Yes."

## **K) INTRODUCTORY READINGS OF ORDINANCES**

### **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.15 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, ENTITLED "PROHIBITED ANIMALS"**

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Schneider, it was moved to amend the ordinance on page 2, section 3B, entitled "Application for Permit" to add the words at the end of the sentence "on or before June 1 of each year". Mrs. Laake stated that this amendment is being done at the request of the Health Department who will be responsible for these permits. With this change, all permits will expire at the same time and it will not interfere with other permit work that they do. On the motion to amend the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes." Mrs. Laake stated that she hopes residents will respond to the ordinance and comment on it. Mr. Mumper inquired as to whether the ordinance was discussed with Mrs. Stanton who was the person who presented the original ordinance idea to council. Mrs. Laake stated that Mrs. Stanton was unable to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting, but her husband was there and she spoke with him about the ordinance. Mrs. Stanton had also sent an email to her regarding the ordinance. Mrs. Stanton is in agreement with the ordinance. She also commented to Mrs. Laake that those in other communities seem to think it is a good ordinance and that we have "covered all the bases." Mr. Moore stated that he shares that desire to hear from residents. He further explained that this ordinance is to allow up to seven chickens at one or two family owner occupied homes in Norwood. He requested that if anyone has an opinion, to please share it with Council. 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 TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2010, 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. Moore asked Mr. Schneider if there are higher fuel costs and overtime for the Public Works Department. Mr. Moore also questioned the purpose for the advance to the Recreation Commission. This is not an item he has ever seen before. Mr. Schneider answered that there was considerable discussion in the Finance Committee meetings about the recreation issue. What has transpired is that there were a few checks that should have been received by this time that would have covered the Recreation expenses. The Auditor has been assured that the money is coming, but we have not received any of it yet. The amount is roughly \$20,000. The advance is proposed to keep programs running. Mr. Schneider then deferred to the Auditor, Mr. Stith, for clarification or perhaps an update on the status of the checks. Mr. Stith stated that to the best of his knowledge, the checks have not yet been received but that he won't know for sure until the month is closed out and the Treasurer's reports are made. The Treasurer's office is working on a creating a central cash system so that we can see what monies have been received in real time. However, as that is not yet in place, he does not know if the checks have been received. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Stith if he knows whether there is a guarantee that the checks will come in. Mr. Stith answered that there is no guarantee on any of this. He was given the information by the head of the Recreation Department. He stated that he is not the grant manager on these and is not tracking them. Mr. Stith continued that advances have been done before. The city advances money to funds and when we get it in, even if you cross over a year, you can get the money back out of the fund because you are doing an advance as opposed to subsidizing the fund. As money comes in, we can get it back out. Mr. Schneider stated that the Finance Committee expects the money to come in. We were told that it was coming and have been told that into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year. With that expectation, we hope it comes in by January. It is potentially in the Treasurer's office, but as Mr. Stith stated, we do not know at this time. Mr. Mumper asked Mr. Schneider if the items in the exhibit are all increases. Mr. Schneider stated that in certain areas cash needed to be appropriated. In the state highway fund and the

water improvement fund there is money that is in other keys that needs to be appropriated. There is already money allocated for those expenses, we are just moving the resources to make the payments. Mr. Mumper stated that he thought the spaces on the bottom meant it was a decrease. On the motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance, all members voted, "Yes." On a motion by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mrs. Laake, it was moved to pass the ordinance. Mr. Schneider commented that the whole idea of this is the Finance Committee has been working every month to try to get the city to have a carryover. As of last week's meeting, it was a \$220,000-\$270,000 carryover so we expect to end the year in the black. The carryover is not like last year, but it is still in the black. We have had some extraordinary events recently, like the fire, in the city that has happened that will go into that. What we looked at with these changes was if we could be in the black for 2010. If we can do that in 2011 as well, we will all be very happy. On the motion to pass the ordinance, all members present voted, "Yes."

#### **L) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

1. Auditor's Report RE: Financial Issues Concerning the City  
Mr. Stith stated that his office is working on closing out the year at this point. He had nothing more to discuss beyond what was discussed at the Finance Committee. Mr. Stith offered to take questions. There were no questions.

2. The Mayor's Report RE: Miscellaneous Business  
The Mayor began by saying how proud he is to be Mayor of the City. He has been looking at how other cities do business and he is proud of our city and our council. The Mayor announced that Capital Electric started doing the timing on lights. The work should be completed shortly.

The Norwood Avenue sign was chosen by Mr. Geers. They are watching the streets for issues. The Mayor stated the Mr. Stith has worked with him to get a purchase order associated for salt as needed. We did not get hit too hard with snow, but we used a large amount of the salt. We have enough salt and are prepared.

The Mayor continued that most everyone is aware of the fire at Norco that occurred last night. On the same day there was also a fire on Worth Ave. and our Fire Department did an outstanding job on that site as well. Both paramedic units were out when the fire at Norco was called in. The Fire Department did exactly the right thing. They did not put firefighter at risk. Electric lines were popping during the fire and walls collapsed. The firefighters moved from an access road when that occurred to prevent injury. The Mayor continued that the firefighters did an outstanding job. Chief Goodman reported to the Mayor that they are keeping an engine company on the site and will be bringing in pumps to remove water from the basement area. When the site is safe, they will start more work on investigating the cause of the fire. The mayor stated that he has every confidence that our inspectors will discover the cause. During the fire, Public Works was called to assist with water supply to the fire and they cut off a valve to make that better. Public Works also salted the ice that formed from the water hoses for the safety of the firefighters. The Mayor said that he was accidentally sprayed by a hose from one of Cincinnati's aerial trucks. It was good seeing the nearby Fire Departments come together to deal with the situation. He is impressed. It shows the talent, resources and professionalism that our city employees have.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy New Year. He recognized that we have a tough year ahead of us, but he trusts that we will continue to work together to get it done. Mr. Thornbury referred to the Mayor's comment about the City of Cincinnati Fire Department's presence at the fire. He asked the Mayor how many responders were there for a fire that large. The Mayor answered that St. Bernard responded and then Cincinnati was also called in. We will have to discuss assisting an adjoining community later. There were about 75 firefighters on the scene and our Fire Department had a safety and planning board up so they knew who was on what piece of equipment in order to keep track of personnel and organize everyone. The City of Cincinnati uses the same process. Captain Wallace coordinated the efforts for all.

#### **M) OTHER REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

There were no requests.

#### **N) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Moore stated that after the last council meeting, the buildings at Elm and Section were razed. He wanted to thank council for passing the ordinance to raze unsafe buildings. This particular building was very high on the list of unsafe buildings. The Building Department tracked down the owner. The Law Department fought it in court. This was the third building in a few years that was torn down. He noted his thanks to everyone involved.

Mrs. Laake asked the Mayor if the funds for building demolition can also be used to take down trees in addition to houses and buildings. The Mayor stated that he does not know, but will check. His thought is that it cannot be used for trees. He further stated that some money was returned by the city because we could not use it fast enough. He has been assured that it will be accessible again later. The city has applied for more funds and he would like to get funds to take down trees as well.

Ms. Grote reminded Council that the appointment of a representative to OKI is due.

Mr. Moore volunteered for the position. On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Thornbury, it was moved to appoint Mr. Moore as the OKI representative for the City of Norwood. All members present voted, "Yes."

**O) NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Laake requested that in view of the appropriations, Council direct a letter to the Recreation Department requesting to be informed when the expected funds are received.

**P) COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Letter from Health Department  
General Fund

RE: Reimbursement to the

On a motion by Mrs. Laake, seconded by Mr. Mumper, it was moved to receive and file the letter and to send a letter of thanks to the Health Department for pursuing these funds and reimbursing the city. All members present voted, "Yes."

**Q) EXCUSES ABSENT MEMBERS**

None

**R) ADJOURNMENT**

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

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**Cassandra Brown**  
Clerk of Council

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**Jane M. Grote**  
President of Council