



**Norwood City Council**  
**Council Chambers | Norwood City Hall**  
**4645 Montgomery Road | Norwood, Ohio 45212**  
**January 11, 2022 | 7:30pm**

**A) CALL TO ORDER**

The Council for the City of Norwood met in regular session on the above date with Mr. Eric Thompson presiding as President Pro-Tem. The meeting opened with an invocation by Pastor Stanton Thomas of New Vision Missionary Baptist Church, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B) INVOCATION**

**C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D) ROLL CALL**

On roll call, the following members answered present: Mrs. Franzen, Mrs. Hoover, Mr. Kelsch, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Breadon.

**E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to add the January 1, 2022 minutes for approval, to include Tom Shepherd's speech from the inauguration ceremony as an attachment to the January 1, 2022 minutes, and to enter executive session following communications on the agenda.

All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

**F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**1) December 28, 2021**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to accept the minutes of the December 28, 2021 and January 1, 2022 meetings, as if read.

All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

**2) January 1, 2022**

*(approved under previous motion)*

**G) PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no public hearings.

**H) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**Frank and Jeanne Stanton                      Re: Driveways on Burwood Avenue**

Mr. & Mrs. Stanton, residing at 4022 Burwood Avenue, addressed Council regarding a driveway they had installed at 3850 Burwood Avenue; a packet containing photos and supplemental documents was previously distributed to members of Council. Mrs. Stanton spoke about the limestone gravel utilized for the driveway; it is environmentally friendly and is more aesthetically pleasing than some of the poured concrete driveways on the street. This type of driveway is permitted within Hamilton County. Mrs. Stanton stated they are not asking for blanket approval for gravel driveways; they are looking for an amendment to the current code that reflects proper engineering and installation of gravel driveways. Mr. Stanton stated they were told to get rid of the gravel driveway and replace it with concrete pads to be compliant with current Norwood code. Mrs. Stanton stated the law, as it is written, is black & white and does not allow for a gravel driveway exception; they had already asked for a variance, but were told that could not happen after-the-fact. Mr. Kelsch stated it looks like a lot of work went into their limestone gravel driveway and he complemented the appearance of their driveway; he noted that the Building Department is simply enforcing the current laws. Mr. Kelsch supports an amendment to the ordinance to allow for something like this. Mr. Breadon asked about the process to change this code; Mr. Moore replied by confirming Council may amend building code, but zoning code must be looked at by the Planning Commission. Mr. Kelsch quoted a letter contained in the packet that was provided to Council, in which both building code and zoning code are mentioned; this is something that Council should look into. Mr. Thompson suggested placing the topic of gravel driveways into the Housing Committee.

**Bishop Sonny James                                      Re: Community, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Norwood**

Mr. James, residing at 1830 Hopkins Avenue, stated it was a beautiful addition to the meeting to have Pastor Stanton Thomas open the meeting with a prayer. Mr. James stated there will be various

celebrations honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. across the country; there are several celebrations taking place in the city of Norwood, including “pop-up marches” during the holiday weekend that will begin at Victory Park. Mr. James mentioned several notable individuals and business leaders of color within the City of Norwood; he encouraged all residents of Norwood to celebrate and support each other.

**Mary C. Miller**

**Re: 2019 Norwood Community Agreement and Montgomery Road Plan**

Ms. Miller, residing at 1845 Hopkins Avenue, congratulated all new and returning members of Council. She distributed copies of the 2019 Community Agreement to members of Council; data from this agreement came from the 2010 census, but the rest of the information regarding the plan is still valid. Ms. Miller also provided a copy of the Montgomery Road Plan to members of Council, and noted that many of the items in the Montgomery Road Plan are already in process; everyone working together is what will help to get these things done.

**Cate Wetzel**

**Re: Gem of the Community Award Celebration**

Ms. Wetzel, residing at 3811 Regent Avenue, announced a new award and event for Norwood; the Gems of the Community Award. The award is hosted by Norwood Together and presented by the Ventura Group. This award is open to adults and youth living in Norwood who demonstrate some or all of the following characteristics: a strong commitment to Norwood, have a positive vision for the community, clearly show concern for members of the community, successfully complete a project and responsibilities, the ability and initiative to bring people together to facilitate positive change, provide creativity in thinking and planning, and maintains a positive attitude. Ms. Wetzel is requesting help from the community in identifying these “gems.” Anyone wanting to submit a name for this award may visit [www.norwoodtogether.org](http://www.norwoodtogether.org) to submit nominees prior to February 5, 2022. The award ceremony will take place at The Ventura at 5:30pm, on February 24, 2022.

**D) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

There were no reports of Standing Committees of Council.

**J) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

There were no third readings of ordinances/resolutions.

**K) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

There were no second readings of ordinances/resolutions.

**L) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**1) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A DAY OF SERVICE IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022.**

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to have the first reading of the resolution in its entirety. All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

**M) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

There were no administration reports.

**N) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Kelsch provided an update on the Elm Avenue project; JMA is getting ready to survey the area and looking for a solution. Residents in the area should receive a letter soon; the project is moving smoothly and expediently.

**O) NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bredon mentioned a business located in Norwood, OTO Supply Company, received national recognition because of a Bengals t-shirt worn by Joe Burrow. Mrs. Franzen noted that OTO Supply Company was the vendor for the Gem of the Highlands 5K t-shirts; all of their items have been high quality.

Mrs. Hoover spoke about the resolution calling for a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.; getting this together was a group effort. There will be a banner placed over Montgomery Road announcing the MLK Day of Service on January 17, 2022. Non-profits in Norwood were contacted and a list of volunteer opportunities for January 17, 2022 was put together; Mrs. Hoover reviewed several of the volunteer opportunities and stated the complete list is available on the city web-site and the Norwood Strong Facebook page. Mrs. Hoover provided her email address, [shoover@norwoodohio.gov](mailto:shoover@norwoodohio.gov), for anyone who would like to add a community event for the MLK Day of Service.

Mr. Thompson stated Mr. Miracle has been working on a checklist of items to complete to get out of Fiscal Emergency; this will require several items being placed in Council committees. Mr. Thompson placed the following items into the Finance Committee: formal written procedures for handling petty

cash, creation of a formal bidding policy, and a formal purchasing policy. Mr. Thompson announced the following to be placed into the Housing Committee: development of a formal water meter reading policy and gravel driveways. Mr. Thompson placed the matter of developing a city charter into the Charter Committee. Mr. Thompson also placed topic of the purchase and use of portable speed humps into the Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. Breadon raised questions about the Standing Rules of Council and the section (6) that discusses “reasonable fees” for those wanting to be mailed advanced notification of meetings. Mr. Thompson suggested placing this matter into the Law & Ordinance Committee; Mr. Moore agreed to the suggestion of placing the matter into the Law & Ordinance Committee to discuss removing the section that mentions these fees, as this verbiage probably pre-dates the usage of emails for meeting announcement distribution. Mr. Breadon placed the matter of reasonable fees in section 6 of the Standing Rules of Council into the Law & Ordinance Committee.

Mrs. Franzen announced that she will schedule committee meetings in the next month or two and will coordinate those meetings and times through the Clerk of Council’s office.

## **P) COMMUNICATIONS**

### **1) Mayor Victor Schneider**

#### **Re: Mayor’s Court Fines**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

### **2) Keith Moore - Law Director**

#### **Re: Law Director’s Annual Report 2022**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to receive and file the letter and allow Mr. Moore to address Council.

All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

Mr. Moore stated most of the questions directed to the Law Department require investigation and research; many of those things do not have answers because of a lack of specificity in codes and laws. One of the largest items handled by the Law Department was a multi-million dollar civil rights lawsuit from 1988 when the city did not have liability insurance; this has taken a large amount of time since 2016 and Mr. Garry has attended 30+ depositions.

Mr. Moore spoke about several of the line items costs in the Law Department budget; although it appears as though the budget for the Law Department has increased over the years, this is primarily due to expenses being moved to the Law Department’s budget. Several of these items include Mr. Brown’s full salary (even though most of his time is spent focusing on technical support within the city), outside legal fees (including the labor council that is hired by the administration), and the settlement of claims (where the city agrees to pay settlements for something, such as damage to vehicles from potholes or injuries not covered by insurance).

Mr. Moore stated that several of the items Mr. Thompson placed into the Finance Committee were put together in draft form; he is unsure if these were kicked back by the State Auditors with edits or changes. Mr. Moore recommended checking with the Auditor’s Office on the status of these items.

Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Garry and Mr. Brown for being helpful to everyone in the city.

### **3) Andrew Conlon – Norwood Clerk of Courts**

#### **Re: Yearly Court Management and Cash Control Report**

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to receive and file the letter as if read.

All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

Council entered Executive Session.

Council returned from Executive Session.

## **Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS**

On a motion by Mr. Kelsch, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to excuse the absent members (Mr. Miracle, Ms. Royse, and Mrs. Winterbauer).

All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

Mrs. Franzen asked about Council appointing a Board Member to the Energy Improvement District; this was a matter initial brought to Council’s attention at the January 1, 2022 meeting.

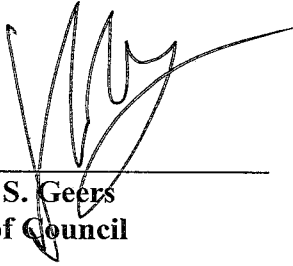
On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to appoint Mrs. Franzen as a Board Member to the Energy Improvement District.

All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

**R) ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Kelsch, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to adjourn.

All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.



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**Joseph S. Geers**  
Clerk of Council



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**Ken Miracle**  
President of Council