



Norwood City Council
Council Chambers | Norwood City Hall
4645 Montgomery Road | Norwood, Ohio 45212
January 25, 2022 | 7:30pm

A) CALL TO ORDER

The Council for the City of Norwood met in regular session on the above date with Mr. Ken Miracle presiding. The meeting opened with an invocation by Pastor Vince Marquis of Love City 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, Ms. Royse, Mrs. Winterbauer, and Mr. Breadon.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add an ordinance regarding the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program, add a communication from Donna Laake regarding the Retiree Benefits Program, to enter into Executive Session immediately following communications, and to add an ordinance regarding a settlement upon returning from Executive Session.

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

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1) January 11, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting, as if read.

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

G) PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

H) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Glenda A. Smith

Re: Juvenile Court Judge Candidate

Ms. Smith, residing at 30 Vermont Avenue, addressed Council regarding her candidacy for Hamilton County Juvenile Court Judge in the May 3, 2022 Primary Election.

Yvonne Collins

Re: Drone over the South Side of Norwood

Ms. Collins, residing at 3811 South Madison Avenue, addressed Council about a drone that is hovering near her residence. Ms. Collins congratulated the new members of Council. Ms. Collins has lived in Norwood since 1995 and stated she has been stalked by an individual since February 2020; she raised this concern with city officials when a drone started to follow her around September 2021. Ms. Collins stated others in the neighborhood are aware of the drone and have called 911. Ms. Collins spoke of the various individuals and departments in Norwood and Hamilton County with which she has raised this concern; she is asking the city to address the issue of this drone. Ms. Collins encouraged those living in South Norwood to call 911 when they see the drone.

Bishop Sonny James

Re: Community

Mr. James, residing at 1830 Hopkins Avenue, was excited to report on the success of the pop-up marches that took place on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Mr. James also spoke of Black History month and the diversity that exists on Council. Mr. James encouraged everyone to support each other.

Elizabeth Blume

Re: Norwood Housing Action Plan

Ms. Blume, Director of the Community Building Institute (CBI) at Xavier University, addressed Council about the Norwood Housing Action Plan; a copy of the plan is on file in the Clerk of Council's office. Ms. Blume stated that about a year and a half ago the Community Development Department within Hamilton County expressed interested in seeing if there were communities within Hamilton County who were interested in thinking more about using Community Development Block Grant funding (CDBG)

allocation that supports housing; Norwood is among the first round of communities doing this work with Hamilton County. Other communities participating in this process include Silverton, Deer Park, Addyston, and Cheviot. The report is a summary of findings for Norwood. Ms. Blume stated there is a very strong housing market in Norwood; single-family home sale appreciation is currently among the highest in Hamilton County.

Summary of Demographics: Norwood has a population just under 20,000; the population is stabilizing and becoming more diverse. Norwood has a growing single-person household mix; the fastest growing part of the population is single people; this includes younger individuals who haven't yet formed households and senior citizens who are living alone.

Summary of Housing Stock: 54% of the housing stock in Norwood is single-family, 28% is small multi-family dwellings, 15% is two-family homes, and there are a few large multi-family dwellings. Norwood has an older housing stock; most structures were built prior to 1939. Ms. Blume spoke about the strong housing market and the impact it has had on increased housing prices in Norwood. There is an increased amount of housing renovations taking place in Norwood; there have been numerous multi-family structures converted back to single-family homes. Ms. Blume stated rent prices have also increased in Norwood, but not as significantly as the home-ownership prices. Xavier University has newer student housing that is an attempt to pull students closer to campus; Xavier has added numerous on-campus and "near-campus" housing facilities for students. Ms. Blume stated there is still a need for more senior housing, handicap accessible housing, affordable housing for current residents, and supportive housing in Norwood. Ms. Blume spoke about the strain on households making less than \$50,000 a year and the impact on households who are spending 30% and 50% on housing. Small multi-family buildings are often targeted for demolition, which eliminates affordable housing.

Recommendations: There is a need to expand the range of housing product in Norwood and to create a network of support for current Norwood households and families. Norwood should develop and negotiate standardized incentive packages for developers. Ms. Blume mentioned targeted code enforcement and a residential improvement program; property maintenance becomes important. In summary, Ms. Blume stated Hamilton County initiated this work to use CDBG funds to focus on housing. Some of Hamilton County's Recovery Act funds are also being set aside for affordable housing activities.

Mr. Breadon thanked Ms. Blume for the information that she shared. Mr. Breadon asked about standardized incentives for developers; Mrs. Hoover also asked about the incentive packages and what they might look like. Ms. Blume replied by stating these incentives might include tax abatements, tax incremental financing (TIFs) or gap financing; the city can seek more clarity on what to offer and what to accept. Mrs. Hoover also asked about who would complete tasks and activities within the recommendations; Ms. Blume replied by stating Norwood City Schools has a great collaborative group currently working with Norwood families. She also noted that the city doesn't have to do everything; Norwood can support the families by being aware of the other community partners and referring families to them when/where applicable. Hamilton County wants to be a partner here; the resources are there for Norwood to take advantage of and utilize. Mrs. Winterbauer asked about cities finding a balance between single-family and multi-family housing; Ms. Blume replied by stating every community is different and there is no benchmark for a housing stock balance of single/multi family units.

Mike Skelly, Norwood Community Development Director, stated this housing study is about the funds; there are over \$5 million available in CDBG funds available from Hamilton County. There is currently around \$200,000 available for store-front facade improvements along Montgomery Road; this will impact around 10 properties in Norwood. Mr. Skelly applauds Ms. Blume and the group for looking into this housing study and the time that was invested; they are looking for Council's endorsement of the Norwood Housing Action Plan.

Mr. Moore mentioned the need to talk about different perspectives with the housing situation and understands the need for affordable housing and a housing mix. Mr. Moore asked about the housing market forces in Norwood and within Hamilton County, and the regional reality of what Norwood should look at doing; Ms. Blume replied by stating the levers Norwood has available includes zoning, TIFs, and CRAs. As an example, Ms. Blume spoke of the commercial development that took place when General Motors left; the focus was to get as much commercial tax dollars into the community from that land.

I) 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

- 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. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to have the second reading of the resolution.

Mrs. Hoover spoke about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service; she thanked Mayor Schneider, the Public Works Superintendent, the Safety-Service Director, and Robin Cox for their assistance with events that day. There were over 30 volunteers who showed up to participate at numerous locations; this day of service created some energy, interest, and excitement, and Mrs. Hoover hopes to see this as a long-standing tradition in Norwood.

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

L) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

- 1) A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2022 AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO.

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.

- 2) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SLANE AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Winterbauer, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mayor Schneider clarified that the \$466,000 is being loaned to Norwood at 0% interest; this is not outside funding, as tax money will pay off this loan.

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

- 3) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mayor Schneider stated applications will be submitted and the city may receive loans, grants, or other financing opportunities. Mrs. Franzen asked if this will require a special meeting to pass the ordinance, since there are not enough members present to pass the ordinance at this meeting; Mayor Schneider replied by stating he will provide an update to Council upon speaking with the Safety-Service Director.

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

- 4) ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM BY MEG ALBERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

[ordinance was considered following Council returning from Executive Session]

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mr. Breadon voted, "No," all other members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

M) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Schneider stated he has put together a strong team that is moving Norwood in the right direction to take advantage of every opportunity available for the city of Norwood; this team includes, but is not limited to, Liz Blume, Mary C. Miller, Mike Skelly, Catherine Fitzgerald, and Andy Brossart. This team is looking at various aspects of housing within Norwood.

Mayor Schneider confirmed there have been several water main breaks in the city; numerous checks are in place to ensure there are not many of these during the winter season. A plan is in place to take the water towers off-line in the future. The Financial Recovery Commission is meeting January 26, 2022, at 9am; they are working on an Emergency Operations Plan, accounting methods, policies and procedures, and also asset tracking. The city is working on union contracts and he should be coming to the next meeting with contracts for Council to approve; there are currently three union contracts they are trying to settle. Mayor Schneider stated we are blessed to have people who want Norwood to do well.

N) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

O) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Breadon stated comments made at the meeting earlier tonight were the second time he has heard Norwood compared to the KKK; he finds these comments to be very upsetting and asked for evidence of this statement to be provided to him, if it does exist. Mr. Breadon congratulated the Cincinnati Bengals on their recent win and wishes them well when they play again Sunday.

Mrs. Franzen announced an Infrastructure Committee meeting to take place February 8, 2022, at 6pm, in Council Chambers. Mrs. Franzen stated she read some comments on Facebook regarding parking laws; Council might look at bringing Norwood’s on-street parking laws in line with other communities. Mrs. Franzen placed the matter into the Law and Ordinance Committee.

Mrs. Hoover announced a Housing Committee meeting to take place January 31, 2022, at 6pm, in Council Chambers. She also announced a Law and Ordinance Committee meeting to take place February 15, 2022, at 6pm, in Council Chambers.

Mrs. Winterbauer announced an Economic Committee meeting to take place February 7, 2022, at 6pm, in Council Chambers.

P) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Auditor’s Office

Re: December Monthly Financial Reports

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to receive and file the letter. All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

2) Donna Laake

Re: Retiree Benefit Program

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

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, 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.

[Agenda item L) 4) was considered at this time]

Q) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

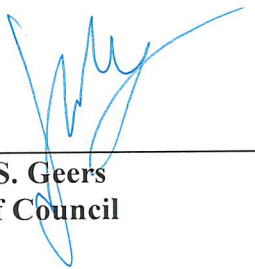
On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to excuse the absent members (Mr. Kelsch and Mr. Thompson).

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

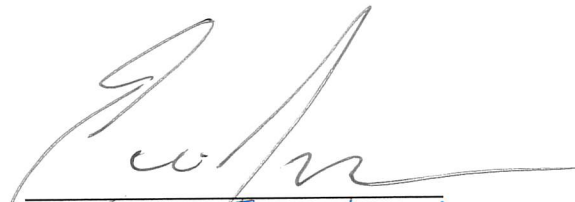
R) ADJOURNMENT

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

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



Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council


Ken Miracle / Eric Thompson
President of Council - pro-Tem