



Norwood City Council
Council Chambers | Norwood City Hall
4645 Montgomery Road | Norwood, Ohio 45212
August 22, 2023 | 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 Carolyn Atwood with The Cameron Church of God, 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, Mr. Kelsch, Mrs. Winterbauer, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Breadon.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: add a Streets Committee report and add a Law & Ordinance Committee report. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1) August 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Winterbauer, seconded by Mr. Kelsch, it was moved to receive and file the minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting, as if read. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

G) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1) Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus

Commissioner Driehaus provided an update about Hamilton County and their partnership with Norwood; she distributed a "Menu of Opportunity: A Resource for Local Government & Communities" to all members of Council (a copy is on file in the Clerk's office). Commissioner Driehaus spoke about understanding where partnerships lie with the County and provided contact information on how to get in touch with all of the Hamilton County Commissioners. The County budget is stable and has 15% in reserve; there are 830,000 residents in Hamilton County. Hamilton County is trying to be an employer of choice; they have a parental leave policy and a tuition reimbursement program. 911, Jobs and Family Services, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office are currently looking for employees. Commissioner Driehaus spoke about projects in the County and getting into a more sustainable space; bike trail initiatives were offered last year and could lead to another partnership with Norwood. The County is looking at EV and charging stations; the County built a large parking garage near Findlay Market that will fit around 500 vehicles. Commissioner Driehaus mentioned the Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan, which was finalized; they are looking at ways to keep trash, yard waste, and organics out of landfills. Commissioner Driehaus spoke about partnerships between Hamilton County and Norwood; those partnerships only work when Norwood and other communities participate and apply for the funding that is available. She confirmed that Norwood has done a great job and has applied for grants; she listed several of those grants. She is delighted that Norwood is the home of Hamilton County Board of Elections; this location is fantastic and the community has been welcoming. Commissioner Driehaus stated she has been to Factory 52 and added that Norwood is "rocking it." Mr. Breadon asked about the parental leave for employees of the County; Commissioner Driehaus responded by stating the parental leave provides 8 weeks of paid leave for new parents who work for the County. Commissioner Driehaus closed her presentation by noting that legislation was just passed in the State of Ohio to provide and require free period products in all schools throughout the State of Ohio; the State provided \$5,000,000 for this initiative.

2) Darren Hackworth, City of Norwood Project Manager

Mr. Hackworth provided a presentation to Council detailing previous, ongoing, current, and potential projects in the city of Norwood. The completed projects in 2022 include: City Hall, Recreation, the Police Academy, the Community Center, Water Works Pool, Lindner Park, Lower Millcrest Park, and the women's locker room at the Police Department. Projects in 2023 include: Council Chambers, Building Department, Auditor's Office, EV charging station, Sherman Avenue / Station Avenue

municipal parking lot, and pickleball courts. Mr. Hackworth stated there are several projects going on simultaneously; it has been rewarding to see the completion of these projects. Potential projects for 2024 include the following identified areas: the Rec Center, the Police Department, the Community Center, the Fire Department, the Health Department, City Hall, and Parks. At the Rec Center, the potential projects include exterior pool for amenity space, ventilation system for the indoor pool, and engineered drawings for an elevator. For the Police Department, the potential projects include resurfacing the Police Academy parking lot, upgrading the ventilation system for the shooting range, and upgrading the men's locker room; Commissioner Driehaus offered the shooting range with Hamilton County as an option for the Norwood Police Department to utilize. For the Community Center, the potential projects include replacing the roof, plaster work on the second floor, and replacing windows throughout the building. The Fire Department's potential project includes the creation of a women's restroom / locker room. The potential projects at the Health Department are an HVAC replacement and an upgrade to the courtyard. At City Hall, the potential projects include adding a break room, the portico building interior, chimney stack tuckpoint, final window replacement, upgrading the Law Department, and resurfacing the municipal parking lot at Elm and Station Avenues. Mr. Hackworth also identified some potential projects in 2024 for Marsh Park, Upper Millcrest Park, Lower Millcrest Park, and Hunter Park. Mr. Hackworth thanked department heads and elected officials within the city for their support and assistance at the various stages of each project. Mrs. Hoover stated it feels like a "real renaissance" is taking place in Norwood with a lot of energy and projects. Mrs. Franzen asked Mr. Hackworth what Council can do to help make his job easier; Mr. Hackworth replied by stating Council supporting the need or request for more money. Mr. Breadon stated the presentation and the accomplishments are very impressive; he was on Council when things weren't happening.

H) PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

I) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1) Bishop Sonny James Re: Community

Mr. James began by commending Ms. Atwood for her invocation, and he also thanked Commissioner Driehaus for sharing information about Hamilton County. Mr. James encourages Norwood leaders and the administration to partner with him as a 500-700-person march comes to Norwood; Mr. James stated he is glad to be a part of the different energy that now exists in Norwood. Mr. James stated the march is not a march of protest, but rather, a march to celebrate what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, and others worked for; the march has been moved to September 23, 2023, with a rainout date scheduled for the first weekend of October.

J) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1) Streets & Infrastructure: 07/20/2023

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to receive and file the committee report.

Mrs. Franzen stated the first step with a levy is to find out from Hamilton County how much would be raised with a levy.

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

2) Law, Ordinance, & Human Resources: 08/22/2023

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to receive and file the committee report. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

K) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no third readings of ordinances or resolutions.

L) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RENAMING NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCE § 521.12 "OUTDOOR FURNITURE RESTRICTION".

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Winterbauer, it was moved to hear the second reading of the ordinance.

Mrs. Hoover stated she would like to pull this ordinance and place it back into committee; there is some wording that needs to be refreshed. She confirmed this with Mr. Moore.

Mrs. Franzen amended her motion to now table the ordinance, Mr. Breadon seconded the amended motion. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

M) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no introductory readings of ordinances or resolutions.

N) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Schneider stated the Director of the Ohio EPA recently visited Norwood; they were here to ask about how Norwood was successful at taking our water system from where it was to where it is now. The water towers are now offline and other improvements were made. Public Works has the street patch trailer out and they are filling/patching potholes. There were meetings with the engineering team about streets being repaired; State Routes 561 and 562 will be repaved. Mayor Schneider mentioned the “potential” projects that were mentioned during Mr. Hackworth’s presentation; those are not set in stone and getting funding in place for those projects will be key.

Mr. Bonsall, Norwood Treasurer, mentioned the upcoming Finance Committee meeting and the presentation by Republic Bank and Trust. Staff in the Treasurer’s office are working hard; these are exciting times and the staff have been great.

Mr. Moore, Norwood Law Director, confirmed that he spoke with Mrs. Hoover about pulling the ordinance and placing it back into committee. Mr. Moore also provided an update on the *Virgil vs Newport* case; Norwood was sued in this case, as well as other communities. In 1988, when Norwood was sued, they had dropped the liability insurance for several years. Mr. Moore and Mr. Garry represented the city in this case; 7 of the 8 cases were dismissed relatively early. Mr. Garry attended 30+ depositions. The final charge against Norwood was dismissed; the 6th Circuit ruled in Norwood’s favor. With regard to this case, it puts Norwood in a good position, but it could be appealed. Mr. Moore thanked Council for their support and the approval to offer to settle the case.

O) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Hoover spoke about the Community Safety Meeting that took place at Norwood View; this was a community conversation about what has been happening in Norwood, what the Norwood Police are currently doing, and what the residents would like the police to do more of. Some residents are not aware of the services that are already available; there was some discussion about community activation. Mrs. Hoover stated Chief Sumner would like to pair an officer with each Ward Council Representative; this officer will be someone who the Councilperson can contact with issues. They are considering bringing back Community Block Watch and there was some discussion about Citizens on Patrol.

Mrs. Hoover reminded everyone that First Responder Night is taking place from 5pm-7:30pm, on September 12th, in the Paycor parking lot. Mrs. Hoover also stated the Norwood Police Department is currently understaffed and they are hiring; as was mentioned by Commissioner Driehaus, this is also a challenge with the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office.

Mrs. Hoover mentioned speeding on Carthage Avenue; the first step is to get the radar sign and monitoring speeding; she placed the topic of speeding on Carthage Avenue into the Streets Committee.

Mrs. Hoover mentioned the painted lines on Sherman Avenue, as mentioned by a resident at a previous Council meeting; a refresh of the lines will be painted tonight and more measurements are needed for the hash-mark lane lines.

Mrs. Hoover mentioned daffodil bulb planting will take place in Marsh Park in the fall, in preparation for the historical marker; additional details will be announced.

P) NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hoover announced that there will be a “Pickleball 101” from 10am-12pm, on August 26th, at Water Works Park.

Mrs. Hoover mentioned the current heat-wave and that Norwood does not have an official cooling station; the Norwood Library is open and air conditioned, but the water fountain is currently out of service. There are cooling stations located in Evanston and Pleasant Ridge.

Mrs. Franzen announced a Streets Committee meeting taking place at 7pm on August 30th, in Council Chambers.

Q) COMMUNICATIONS

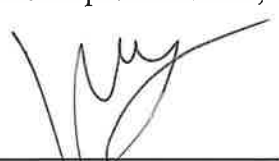
There were no communications.

R) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

There were no absent members.

S) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to adjourn. All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.



Joseph S. Geers
Clerk of Council



Ken Miraele Eric Thompson
President of Council - Pro-TEM