

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

October 25, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Municipal Court
Norwalk, Ohio

WORK SESSION

Council President Steve Euton called the Work Session to order. The following members were present: Steve Euton, Chris Mushett, Kelly Beck, Chris Castle, David Wallace, Steve Schumm, Deb Lucal, and Samantha Wilhelm.

Law Director Stu O'Hara, Finance Director Diane Eschen, Safety/Service Director Dan Wendt, and Public Works Director Josh Snyder were also present.

Item No. 16-096

AN ORDINANCE ELIMINATING THE LONGEVITY BENEFIT PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 5.16 OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

Mr. O'Hara explained that this is an ordinance to eliminate the longevity benefit. He said the benefit has been suspended for the last several years due to the City's inability to pay. He added that if the benefit is terminated it could be reinstated in the future if so desired.

Mr. Mushett said that it is important to consider both sides of the issue. He said it was part of the new hire package at the time and he feels the City should uphold their commitment to those employees.

Mr. Beck asked what number of people would be affected by this change. Mrs. Eschen estimated 60 employees. Mr. Beck said he supports taking it off the books.

Mr. Wallace asked what the timeframe is before the last employee hired with this benefit would be eligible to retire. Mrs. Eschen estimated 15-20 years depending on when they choose to retire. She added that the longevity benefit was eliminated from the new hire package in 2013.

Mr. Mushett said that his understanding in talking to Mrs. Eschen is that the total impact on the budget would be about \$36,000, with \$10,000 coming from the General Fund. He said that the City made a commitment to the employees and he feels it is Council's responsibility to consider it on a yearly basis.

Mr. Beck requested a list of employees affected. Mrs. Eschen agreed to obtain that information.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

Item No. 16-097

A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO A SYSTEMATIC SIGN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM BY THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DIRECTING COOPERATION

Mr. Snyder explained this is an ODOT program in which ODOT will be placing new signs on State Route 20. He said the program is entirely ODOT funded and there will be no charge to the City.

Mr. Wallace asked if they are increasing the number of signs. Mr. Snyder said he hasn't seen any actual plans, but it is his understanding they are upgrading the reflectivity and bringing the signs up to grade.

Mr. Beck asked where the “Welcome to Norwalk” signs with the service organizations listed have gone. Mr. Snyder said the Chamber of Commerce is working on a project and he is unsure of the status.

Mrs. Lucal asked for an approximate start date on the project. Mr. Snyder did not have that information.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

Item No. 16-098

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2015-057

Mrs. Eschen explained the items listed in the legislation. Mr. Mushett asked if the payment of unused sick leave would carry over from year to year. Mrs. Eschen said yes.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

Item No. 16-099

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-056 TO CORRECT A CLERICAL ERROR

Mr. O’Hara explained that this legislation is simply to remove the word “Sanitation” and clean up the ordinance.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

Item No. 16-100a

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2015-057 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Eschen explained the items listed in the legislation. Mr. Schumm asked how much vacation time an employee can accrue. Mrs. Eschen said one year can be carried over. She said it could be up to five weeks depending on how long they have been employed by the City. Mr. Mushett asked if employees would be paid for two years’ worth of vacation or if they would lose it. Mrs. Eschen said there have been such instances and they get paid for it.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Euton said that November 1, 2016 will be a Regular Session of Council. He asked the Administration to consider cancelling the November 8, 2016 meeting due to that being Election Day.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.