

**NORWALK CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

October 4, 2016  
7:30 p.m.

Municipal Court  
Norwalk, Ohio

**REGULAR SESSION**

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Council President Steve Euton called the meeting to order. Deacon Dave Rospert offered the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council members were present: Chris Mushett, Chris Castle, Steve Euton, Samantha Wilhelm, Steve Schumm, Dave Wallace, and Kelly Beck.

Mr. Schumm moved to excuse Mrs. Lucal. Mrs. Wilhelm seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Rob Duncan, Law Director Stu O'Hara, Finance Director Diane Eschen, Safety/Service Director Dan Wendt, Police Chief Dave Light, and Public Works Director Josh Snyder were also in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Mr. Wallace moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Beck seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MINUTES** Mr. Mushett moved to approve the September 20, 2016 and September 27, 2016 minutes as presented. Mr. Castle seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS** – none

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Mr. Euton pointed out that the Finance Committee minutes were distributed to all of Council.

**OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**MAYOR** Mayor Duncan thanked everyone who participated in the Imagine a Drug Free Norwalk event on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said 250-300 citizens participated throughout the event. Next, he discussed the electric utility aggregate agreement he recently signed with NexAir Energy. He said the City will be bundling accounts together to save approximately \$47,800 over the next few years. He then announced that the former Eagle gas station will be sold at Sheriff's sale on October 17, 2016. Finally, he said the City continues to demolish properties through the Moving Ohio Forward Grant. He said 45 Willard Avenue is for sale and 53 Jefferson has recently been sold.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR** Mr. Wendt started by saying that the Family First event held on October 1<sup>st</sup> was a success. He said there were 17 agencies represented and 200-250 citizens participated. Next, he encouraged Council to attend the final Huron County 911 Assessment & Strategic Plan Recommendations meeting which is in New London on Wednesday, October 05, 2016. He said he would like to respectfully encourage the Huron County Board of Commissioners to consider adding a 911 Coordinator as a technical expert. He then gave an

update on 13 James Street. He said much of the rubbish has been cleaned up, but there is a ways to go.

In reference to the Jaycee Park, he said he would like to rebrand the park as Bicentennial Jaycee Park in honor of the upcoming celebration. He said they are hoping to include shuffleboard, pickleball, tennis courts, a playground with a rubberized surface, a new pavilion, and a basketball court that could potentially be flooded to become an ice rink in the winter.

Mr. Wallace wished to share what he learned at the 911 meeting. He said they stressed that Huron County as a whole is 20-30 years behind in the 911 field. He said the consulting group felt that 911 is not up to snuff and his concern is the possible liability to the City. Mayor Duncan responded that the City is completely in compliance with the laws and he praised the dispatchers.

Chief Light said he would like to see a 911 Coordinator county-wide. He said he feels Huron County needs to be consistent in the way they operate. He also discussed training standards for dispatchers. He cited communication barriers between the Sheriff's office and county police dispatchers as one reason for recent talk of consolidation and added that the Sheriff's office refuses to share their radio frequency which hinders inter-departmental communication. Finally, he said the county should adopt Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocol. He said police dispatchers would then be trained to handle calls involving medical emergencies such as choking. He pointed out that in most states cellular phone customers pay up to a fifty cent tax per month to fund 911. He said Ohio is the lowest state in the country, only paying only a quarter a month.

Mr. Wendt said that any changes to the phone tax would occur at the State level. In addition, he said the dispatchers are very professional and are highly scrutinized. He explained the training dispatchers undergo, which is a part of the City's risk mitigation strategy.

Mr. Schumm said that he also attended the 911 meeting and he feels that hiring a 911 Coordinator would show unity within the county.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR** – no report

**LAW DIRECTOR** – no report

**ENGINEER** Mr. Snyder said the City Generator Project is complete and the new generator should last up to 40 years. He said the Westwind/Route 250 Project is awaiting signs, striping and the handrail. He said on the Pleasant Street Project the gravity line is done and the focus is on the park area. He added that the City has received many applications for commercial building plans including Dunkin Donuts.

**APPOINTED OR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – none

## **SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES**

### **NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### *Item No. 16-090*

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A REVOLVING LOAN FUND AGREEMENT WITH FAMILY LIFE COUNSELING AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES, INC.

Mr. Castle moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Wallace seconded. All members voted in favor. Resolution No. 2016-045 adopted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Euton stated that there will be a Work Session October 11, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

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

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Stephen E. Euton  
President

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Jaime L. Peiples  
Clerk