

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

November 15, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Municipal Court
Norwalk, Ohio

WORK SESSION

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

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

Item No. 16-102

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PAY HAS CLAIM SERVICE FOR AN INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK

Mr. O'Hara explained that this legislation is to pay the deductible for an insurance policy pertaining to a lawsuit that was filed three years ago. Mr. Mushett asked if the lawsuit has been settled. Mr. O'Hara said it is still pending.

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

Item No. 16-105

A RESOLUTION CREATING THE STATE ISSUE II MILAN AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT FUND

Mrs. Eschen explained that a portion of this fund has been added to the supplemental. She added that this is an extra project that has been awarded to the City.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Euton asked if council members had any questions, concerns, or feedback on the social media policy draft. There being none Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next regular session.

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Mr. Beck moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Wallace seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

MINUTES Mr. Castle moved to approve the November 1, 2016 minutes as presented. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – none

COMMITTEE REPORTS – none

OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR – Mayor Duncan reported on First Energy ending their contract with NOPEC three years early. He said NOPEC has entered into an agreement with NextEnergy Services of Ohio for the next three years. He added that services and rates will not change. In the new agreement, he said that after January the electric will be just like the gas and if citizens want to opt out it will not cost them anything.

Mr. Schumm asked if there will be an article in the newspaper concerning this news. Mayor Duncan said there was a press release in the Reflector.

Mr. Wallace said that he did some research on the topic and found that NOPEC is considerably cheaper than the competitors.

SERVICE DIRECTOR – no report

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Mrs. Eschen referenced the paper copies of the 2017 budget that were distributed. She invited Council members to her office to discuss the information.

LAW DIRECTOR – no report

ENGINEER – Mr. Snyder announced that leaf pick-up is ahead of schedule. He said the City was awarded an OPWC grant to add curb and drainage to the section of roadway along Milan Avenue from just north of League Street to Cline Street. He said the project cost is \$270,000 of which \$50,000 comes from the grant, \$180,000 from a loan, and the remaining \$40,000 is the City's share. Lastly, he said the City was awarded an ODNR grant for mosquito control. He said that consists of \$5,000 worth of larvicide which will be purchased for 2017.

Mr. Mushett asked if there are any plans to extend the leaf pick-up due to the amount of leaves still on trees. Mr. Snyder said not at this time, but the topic will be discussed.

Mr. Beck asked why the leaf-pick up was not delayed. Mayor Duncan said leaf pick-up needs to be completed so the equipment can be converted for snow removal. Mr. Beck asked if people could call for a second pick-up. Mayor Duncan said the General Services Department would probably accommodate anyone needing additional leaf removal.

Mrs. Lucal asked if a reminder could be posted on the website concerning residents not bagging leaves as well as the end of curbside brush pick-up. Mayor Duncan agreed to look into that.

Mr. Wallace asked if the leaf pick-up falls under Sanitation or General Services Department. Mr. Snyder said Sanitation pays for it, but General Services provides supplemental staff. Mr. Wallace suggested the Sanitation Department purchase an additional truck.

In reference to the Milan Avenue Drainage Project, Mr. Wallace asked if the project had been in the budget. Mr. Snyder said that as a second project, it was not a sure thing therefore it was not in the 2016 budget, but it is included in the 2017 budget. Mr. Wallace questioned why the Administration is going ahead with the project and incurring more expense to the City with the current state of the budget. Mrs. Eschen pointed out that Council passed a resolution giving permission to apply for the funding. She further explained the funding process to Mr. Wallace. She said no funds will come from the Capital Improvement Fund or the General Fund for the project.

APPOINTED OR ELECTED OFFICIALS

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Item No. 16-096

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

There being no motion this legislation was not passed.

Item No. 16-098a

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

Mr. Mushett moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Resolution No. 2016-049 adopted.

Item No. 16-099

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

Mr. Mushett moved to pass the ordinance. Mr. Castle seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2016-040 passed.

Item No. 16-100b

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

Mrs. Wilhelm moved that the clerk be instructed to read the legislation. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mushett moved to suspend the rules requiring two readings of an ordinance. Mr. Wallace seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wilhelm moved to accept the emergency declaration as outlined in Section 8. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mushett moved to pass the ordinance. Mr. Schumm seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2016-041 passed.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 16-102

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PAY HAS CLAIM SERVICE FOR AN INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK

Mr. Beck moved that the clerk be instructed to read the ordinance. Mr. Mushett seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Motion carried.

Item No. 16-105

A RESOLUTION CREATING THE STATE ISSUE II MILAN AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT FUND

Mr. Castle moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Schumm voted in favor. Resolution No. 2016-050 adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Euton said that November 22, 2016 will be a work session.

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

Stephen E. Euton
President

Jaime L. Peiples
Clerk