

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

December 20, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Municipal Court
Norwalk, Ohio

REGULAR SESSION

Council President Steve Euton called the meeting to order. Pastor Jeff Watson 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, and Kelly Beck. Dave Wallace was absent.

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

Mr. Castle moved to excuse Mr. Wallace. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

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

MINUTES Mr. Beck moved to approve the December 6 and December 13, 2016 minutes as presented. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – none

COMMITTEE REPORTS – none

OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR – Mayor Duncan said that despite the challenges, the City has had many accomplishments in 2016. He added that he continues to receive compliments from both residents and non-residents regarding what a nice place Norwalk is and he described it as the best little city in Ohio.

SERVICE DIRECTOR – Mr. Wendt said that the City's insurance company has given Norwalk a 40/40 on the risk management profile. He explained that the perfect score helps to keep insurance rates down. He praised the department heads for embracing a culture of safety. Next, he said there were two vehicle accidents on Saturday night following the ice storm. He said the drivers failed to follow at a safe distance. He added that the City had five salt trucks out and it takes about three hours to complete one pass. Finally, he announced that he will be participating in a beard growing contest in celebration of the City's Bicentennial celebration. He encouraged the public to join him.

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Mrs. Eschen said that she will be presenting Council with a supplemental at the beginning of 2017 for the Parks and Recreation Department. She said Parks and Recreation has been awarded \$4,066.00 from Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the City will be responsible for \$3,000.00. She explained that the money will be used to replace the netting on the batting cages at Baines Park. Next, she addressed the 2015 audit results that were emailed to Council members by the clerk and thanked her staff for their efforts.

LAW DIRECTOR – no report

ENGINEER – Mr. Snyder said that the Public Works Department has applied for Brownfield Grant funding. He said the grant is 100% EPA funded. He said if the City is awarded the grant it would be the first step in assessing undeveloped land and doing superficial environmental work.

Mr. Mushett asked how many properties will be impacted if the grant is awarded to the City. Mr. Snyder said they submitted eight properties and he has a list of other properties that could be added.

APPOINTED OR ELECTED OFFICIALS – Mr. Castle shared the details of an email he received from a Western Reserve High School senior. He said she commended the General Services Department for the wonderful job they did following the ice storm.

Chief Light started by saying that the Norwalk Police Department has been a member of Metrich drug task force for 16 years. He said thanks to government funding they have yet to pay annual fees. He said each of the counties has an access officer, Norwalks' being Detective Seth Fry. He said Metrich is reimbursing the City \$2,500 towards overtime Detective Fry spent on drug investigations. Next, he discussed the process involved with seizing cell phones in drug investigations. He said Metrich is going to assign a \$9,000 Cell Bright machine along with the training to use it. The machine will be used to extract information from seized cell phones which will prevent the department from having to outsource.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mr. Euton called for a vote to amend the Council Rules and Regulations to include Section XVII: Social Media, a copy of which is on file with the clerk.

Mr. Castle moved to amend the Council Rules and Regulations to include Section XVII: Social Media. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Item No. 16-101b

AN ORDINANCE TO BUDGET AND MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

Mr. Mushett moved to amend *Item No. 16-101a* to *Item No. 16-101b*. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mushett moved to pass the ordinance. Mrs. Wilhelm seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2016-045 passed.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 16-111

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE WRITTEN PLAN OF THE TREE BOARD AS THE 2017 COMPREHENSIVE TREE PLAN OF THE CITY OF NORWALK

Mrs. Wilhelm moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Resolution No. 2016-054 adopted.

Item No. 16-114

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. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Castle moved to accept the emergency declaration as outlined in Section 5. Mr. Beck seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wilhelm moved to pass the ordinance. Mr. Schumm seconded. Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Lucal, and Mr. Mushett all voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2016-046 passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Euton said the December 27, 2016 meeting will be cancelled. The next Council meeting will be a Work Session followed by a Regular Session on January 3, 2017.

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

Stephen E. Euton
President

Jaime L. Peiples
Clerk