

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

August 22, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Municipal Court
Norwalk, Ohio

REGULAR SESSION

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

Mr. Mushett moved to excuse David Wallace for family medical issues. Mr. Castle seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Motion carried.

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

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

MINUTES Mr. Mushett moved to approve the August 1, 2017 and August 8, 2017 minutes as presented. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – The Clerk read a letter of resignation from Council member Kelly Beck effective August 22, 2017. A copy the letter is on file with the Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR – no report

SERVICE DIRECTOR –Mr. Wendt discussed the hiring of an EMA Director and the funding of a 911 Coordinator. He said he recently met with Clerk of Courts Susan Hazel to discuss title transfers for junk vehicles. He said the Administration is closer to presenting legislation which would enable the City to abate junk vehicles which are parked on private property. He announced that the City-wide Garage Sale is September 8-10, 2017. He said that fall budget hearings will be held October 3-4, 2017. Last, in Park and Recreation, he said the indoor aquatic center re-opens Monday, September 28, 2017 and the Firelands Symphony Orchestra will be performing at the reservoir Sunday, August 27, 2017.

Mrs. Wilhelm asked Mr. Wendt to elaborate on the discussion of hiring a 911 Coordinator. Mr. Wendt agreed to update Council once the job description is approved by the Technical Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Lucal requested the date of the Fall trash pick-up. Mr. Wendt said it is the week of Halloween.

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Mrs. Eschen thanked Council members and wished them and the City the best. She said it has been an honor and privilege to serve the community.

LAW DIRECTOR – no report

ENGINEER – Mr. Snyder said the fire station contract was awarded to Studer-Obringer Construction of New Washington, Ohio for \$3,431,000.00. He said the first segment of the Milan Avenue project from Main Street to Marshall Street will be done in time for school to start. He said from Marshall Street to St. Mary's will still be restricted. Starting next week, he said there will be a total closure from League Street to Main Street for waterline work. He said there will be detour signs posted to direct out-of-towners to Whitney Field.

APPOINTED OR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Chief Soisson reminded Council members that the site work for the new station that has been completed thus far has not cost the City a penny. He said the City will be purchasing items such as furnishings to save money. He said he is planning a Blue Ribbon Committee meeting within the next month. Last, he said he's been receiving checks in the mail and a donation campaign is in the works.

Mrs. Eschen said it appears as though there will be no debt issued for the new station.

Chief Soisson thanked Mrs. Eschen for her continued support of the new fire station.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

Dean Hales, 36 Old Orchard Loop asked if there were any local bids for the new station construction. Chief Soisson said there were six bids. He said they all came in under the estimate and New Washington was the both the lowest bid and closest in proximity to Norwalk.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Item No. 17-068

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JOB CREATION GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Mushett moved to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Schumm seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2017-027 adopted.

Item No. 17-069a

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 721 OF THE NORWALK CODIFIED ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF TAXICABS

Mrs. Wilhelm moved to adopt the ordinance. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Ordinance No. 2017-028 adopted.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 17-072

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HURON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK

Mrs. Wilhelm moved to pass the resolution. Mr. Castle seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Resolution No. 2017-038 passed.

Item No. 17-073

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2016-045 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. O'Hara said that the Administration requests that this item be tabled until the next Regular Session due to there not being enough members of Council present to pass the legislation.

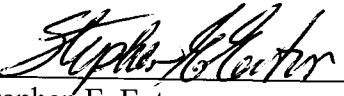
Mr. Castle moved that the legislation be tabled until the next Regular Session. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mr. Mushett, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Schumm, Mr. Castle, and Mrs. Lucal voted in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Euton asked Mr. O'Hara to explain the process to replace Mr. Beck. Mr. O'Hara said that because Mr. Beck was elected as an independent the position is to be filled by Council. There will need to be a nomination, a second, and a vote of at least 4 members. He said Council has 30 days from today to fill the vacancy or the Mayor will appoint someone. Mr. O'Hara added that the only requirement is that the person has to have been a resident of Norwalk for at least one year.


Mr. Euton said they will take one week to gather interest. He said a letter of interest or resume can be submitted to the Clerk. He requested that any letters received by noon on Friday, August 25th be included in next week's packet for consideration.

Mr. Euton applauded Mrs. Eschen for her integrity, patience, and availability over the years.

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



Stephen E. Euton
President



Jaime L. Peiples
Clerk