

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

August 8, 2017
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, Samantha Wilhelm, Chris Castle, Kelly Beck, Steve Schumm, Dave Wallace, and Deb Lucal.

Mayor Rob Duncan, Law Director Stu O'Hara, Finance Director Diane Eschen, and Safety Service Director Dan Wendt were also in attendance.

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

Mayor Duncan explained that this is legislation that should have been taken care of earlier in the year.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda.

Mr. Wallace made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible or pending litigation and collective bargaining. Mrs. Lucal seconded. Mrs. Lucal, Mr. Schumm, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. Beck, Mr. Mushett, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Castle voted in favor. Motion carried.

Work Session reconvened.

Item No. 17-073

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

Mrs. Eschen explained this supplemental is for outside counsel to handle litigation and negotiations related to union contract matters.

Council members agreed to place this item on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Euton said there will be no meeting next week. The next Regular Session is August 22, 2017.

Corey Edwards, 606 Kensington Drive, Gahanna was present to discuss Marsy's Law and equal rights to victims of crime. He distributed a petition and contact information which is on file with the clerk.

Mr. Euton began discussion on the proposals for creating a selection process for the future appointment of a Finance Director. A copy of the memo he distributed is on file with the clerk.

Mr. O'Hara said that at the request of Council he removed the 30 day internal posting time and changed the recommended five years experience to three years in both remaining proposals.

Mr. Castle, Mrs. Lucal, Mr. Beck, and Mr. Mushett all said they prefer #3. Mayor Duncan said the Administration prefers #1. Council members discussed some of the differences between the two proposals.

Mr. Wendt said that the selection board is modeled after the Police and Fire Chiefs. He added that in this draft the Administration has no vote, which he said is unfair. Mr. O'Hara explained the relationship between the Mayor and the Chiefs of Fire and Police.

Mrs. Wilhelm said that if the Administration is given a vote there is the possibility of a tie vote. Mr. O'Hara said an additional member of Council could be added to the board or one could be removed.

Mr. Wallace said that if the point is to keep the position of Finance Director non-political it would not make sense to give the Mayor a vote. Mr. Euton said it isn't possible to completely remove politics from anything. Mr. Wendt said he doesn't think allowing the Administration to have a vote would rival Council's ability in the selection process, but it would allow them a small but recognized voice.

Mr. Euton asked if selection board meetings are open to the public. Mr. O'Hara said yes, but they could move at any point into an Executive Session. He added that the selection committee will certify the top three candidates to Council. Council will then pick from the list.

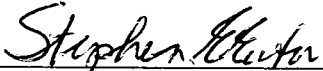
Mr. Castle asked what happens if there aren't three candidates. Mr. O'Hara said he will need to consider that.

In other business, Mr. Schumm asked for an update on the junk car situation. Mr. Wendt said he has no update at this time.

Mr. Wallace asked for an update on the former Eagle Station. Mayor Duncan said he has no update at this time. He added that he is waiting to speak to someone who is out of town. Mr. O'Hara explained the peculiarities of the situation surrounding this property.

Mrs. Lucal asked for an update on the Highway Composites/PIPO building. Mr. O'Hara said the property is in litigation. He said an investors group bought the tax liens and have begun foreclosure. He said it is in a holding pattern and will eventually go up for Sheriff's sale.

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



Stephen E. Euton
President



Jaime L. Peiples
Clerk