

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President David Miller called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Fiorelli, Gelfand, Goodman, Gray, Icovc, Romeo, Miller (7)

Absent: None

Staff: Benjamin, Blackley, Smith, Lograsso, Nietert, Welo, Martin, Love, Huston

Opening Meeting of Council:

President Miller called the Open Meeting of Council to order and invited the audience to address Council:

- Linda Pagan, 684 Parkside, stated her opinions regarding the Parking Ticket Examiner and how many cases would be reviewed each month. Ms. Pagan stated that Library Executive Director Sari Feldman stated in an interview that Fran Mentch runs the "Save the Library" group and said that she does not and that Ms. Mentch is the only outside resident a part of the group.
- Yakov Lieber, 4242 Hindsdale asked how many liquor licenses there are in South Euclid and does the City of South Euclid have any legal authority to set a maximum amount. Law Director Lograsso stated that the City has no authority over the issuance of licenses and that he would try to find an answer for him regarding the number.
- William Mclaughlin, 4286 Elmwood Road, asked that the City look into driveways that are plowed and then block sidewalks and also stated that there are many kinds of liquor licenses by permit and class.

Presentation: David Yost Auditor Award of Distinction

Mayor Welo reported that the Auditor could not be in attendance and presented the community and City Council with the State of Ohio Auditor's Award of Distinction. The Award is given to cities that file an annual CAFR and timely financial reports in accordance with GAAP, as well as receive a "clean" audit report. A "clean" audit report means that the City's financial audit did not contain findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or any questioned costs. The auditor's certificate states that South Euclid's "exemplary reporting serves as the standard for clean, accountable government, representing the highest level of service to Ohioans."

Report of Council Committees:

Safety Committee

Councilwoman Gray reported that the Safety Committee met earlier in the evening to review pending legislation in the Committee and that two pieces of legislation regarding nuisances were recommended for passage at the next meeting of council. Ms. Gray reported on the January 16, 2013 meeting to discuss Juvenile Diversion and youth issues and another meeting will be scheduled in April.

Recreation Committee

Introduced by Miller

Ordinance 41-12

ORDINANCE

AMENDING SECTION 933.07, FEES FOR USE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 933, MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOLS OF PART NINE, STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID; SETTING ADMISSION FEES, SEASON PASSES, SPECIAL PROGRAMS, AND RECIPROCITY WITH THE CITY OF LYNDHURST FOR USE OF THE MUNICIPAL POOLS AND SPLASH PARK BY RESIDENTS OF THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Following discussion, It was moved by Gelfand, seconded by Miller, that Ordinance 41-12 be approved.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Gelfand, Goodman, Gray, Icovc, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The Legislation has Passed Unanimously.

Legislation Requested by City Council

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 05-13

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ACT AND PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF AN AUDIT COMMITTEE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. FIRST READING.

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Fiorelli that Resolution 05-13 be approved.

Councilperson Fiorelli stated that there is a sense of urgency to take some action on this issue.

Councilperson Goodman stated that she is very proud of the award by the State Auditor and the Bond Rating but the motion should be withdrawn and sent to committee for discussion.

Councilperson Gelfand agreed with Councilwoman Goodman and said that he is very proud we got the award from state auditor and did very well on our bond rating and it speaks volumes for the City, but as a newer Council Member it should be discussed because last year there was discussion that the committee would be a citizen's committee.

Councilwoman Gray stated that she doesn't think the legislation as presented is wise and it doesn't hurt to have a second party perform the function and seek greater transparency. Gray said that when she asked for documents, she was not given them in full and instead gets letters of intimidation and that there are some things that are not going to be resolved when the administration gives you only what they want you to have. Ms. Gray raised the issue of legal fees that she had requested copies of and was told she could not have them because they are attorney client privilege.

Mayor Welo responded that Council Members have the right to review legal bills in full at any time, and explained why copies could not be made because they may contain sensitive information dealing with employee and personnel issues, negotiations, etc, which are not public record. However, Council has the ability to review the documents, un-redacted, at any time.

Councilman Ilove stated that the issue was discussed last year, but having citizens on the committee would make it a governmental checks and balance that furthers transparency and that he concurs with Councilwoman Goodman that the legislation should be sent to committee.

Mayor Welo responded that the only body that can audit the City is the State Auditor and that the Audit Committee recommended by the Auditor has very specific and limited functions and has no oversight over the city's finances.

Councilman Romeo stated that in light of the concerns that he will withdraw his motion and asked that the legislation be referred to committee. Mr. Romeo said the name "Audit Committee" is confusing for the actual purpose of the committee. A Committee of the Whole was scheduled for February 25, 2013 at 7 pm.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Welo reported that she spoke with Chuck Abbey from University Suburban Health Center and they have agreed to donate \$6,000 for the City's Diversion Program. The Mayor reported that she attended Adrian School Bingo Night and thanked the One South Euclid Board for their work and support of the Purple Heart Homes Project and thanked Councilman Romeo for his hard work at the Volunteer Day for the project. The Mayor has been working as President of the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association to prevent the State of Ohio and Governor Kasich from cutting more funds from local cities and schools.
- Engineer Blackley reported on the pre-construction meeting for the Anderson Road project and reported that the City's application for DOPWIC infrastructure funds came in 3rd in Northeast Ohio for the South Green Road signalization project.
- Finance Director Smith reported that the Auditors have started the 2012 annual audit and if any member of Council would like to meet with them, they are available. Smith reported that an Entry Conference Audit meeting will be scheduled for later in the month. Smith also reported that the 2012 books have closed and that budget books for 2013 will be available around February 13.
- Housing Manager Martin reported that door-to-door inspection letters for 2013 are going out next week and she will get Council copies. Martin also reported that ESOP will begin weekly meetings once again with residents at risk of foreclosure next week and the program dovetails nicely with the Legal Aid program. Martin reported that the owner of the Idea Home has moved in and is a 23-year-old young professional from Stow.
- Chief Huston requested Council's consideration of Resolution 06-13
- Director Benjamin discussed the bid process regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan and the bids received.

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 06-13

RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR THE FEMA-DR-4098 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. FIRST READING.

Following discussion, It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Goodman, that Resolution 06-13 be approved.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Gelfand, Goodman, Gray, Ilove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The Legislation has Passed Unanimously.

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 08-13

RESOLUTION

STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF HB5 BY THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH PROPOSES UNIFORMITY MEASURES FOR MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX IN THE FORM OF UNFUNDED MANDATES AND A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF REVENUE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. FIRST READING.

Following discussion, It was moved by Miller, seconded by Romeo, that Resolution 08-13 be approved.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Gelfand, Goodman, Gray, Ilove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The Legislation has Passed Unanimously.

Law Director's Report

Law Director Lograsso Reported that the City received \$23,000 as a result of the sale of 4081 Bayard. The owner passed away last year and there were no living relatives.

Letters & Communications

- Council President Miller reported on the Grand Opening of the GetGo at Mayfield and Belvoir and said it has been packed. Miller reminded residents to get their tickets for the Purple Hear Homes Dogs and Suds benefit this Saturday Night and reminded Council to turn in their budget folders so that the Finance Department can update them for the 2013 budget. Miller stated that Budget Hearings would probably begin the week of February 18-22.
 - Councilwoman Gray stated that she still wants someone from the auditor's office to come to the city and explain the issue regarding the Audit Committee.
 - Councilman Romeo reported on the upcoming Playground of Possibilities Fundraiser and reported at how gratifying it was to help work on the Purple Heart Home and see so many people from the community come out to help.
 - Councilman Fiorelli reported on the St. John's Church Taco Fest and the Brown and Gold Raffle to be held March 16 to benefit the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools.
 - Councilperson Ilove reported on GetGo opening and reminded residents not to forget about the United Dairy Farmers.
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Adjourn

Following discussion, It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Goodman, that Council Adjourn the Meeting.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Gelfand, Goodman, Gray, Ilove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Council adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council