

SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Pro Tem Icové called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

Present: Councilman Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Icové

Absent: Council President David Miller, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilman Moe Romeo.

Action: Motion to Suspend the Rules to Allow Public Comment. **Moved by** Council President Pro Tem Icové, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Councilman Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Icové.

Open Meeting of Council

- Roberta Siegel, 4070 Bayard Road, stated that it's important that police and fire staffing remain at maximum.
- Bob Frey, 1299 South Green Road, stated that as a taxpayer he would like to know what he's supposed to get for his tax dollars and services keep dwindling and the city keeps threatening another tax increase and this would be the third tax increase in 8 years.
- Chuck Ishler, 3841 Fremont Road, stated his opinion that the city should maintain current staffing both fire and police and that he supports a property tax increase of all of the choices because everyone is going to benefit.
- Yakov Lieber, 4242 Hinsdale, stated that there is no financial crisis in 2013 and the Mayor is wrong by saying there is and that, however 2014 is different. But for 2013 there is no reason for layoffs.
- Madelyn Watts, 873 Haywood Drive, stated that whenever council needs money they threaten police and fire and asked how staffing is coordinated to come up with how many police and fire personnel we really need.
- Marc Sanderson, 4078 Elmwood, stated that the west side of South Euclid is seeing great rebounds in investment of property and that the area is becoming a hot spot for doctors and lawyers from the Hospitals and Case and that cutting safety forces will hurt these efforts and stated his support for a safety ley.
- Robin Leichtman, 4432 Norma Drive, stated that she has lived in South Euclid her entire life and she is very nervous and concerned about some things happening in her neighborhood. But that there are good things happening too. Ms. Leichtman said she appreciates Yakov Lieber's suggestions and that it is fair.
- Kevin Wynne, 585 Quilliams Road, stated that as an Auxiliary Officer he has worked with the South Euclid police and seen the job that they do and that they are heroes and implores Council to find a way or suggest to the community to find a way to make safety forces stay.

Legislation in the Committee of the Whole

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 08-13

RESOLUTION

AMENDIN SECTIONS 131.05 AND 131.07 "POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPOSITION" AND "FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPOSITION" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY FORCE AT THEIR CURRENT LEVELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Pro Tem Icové stated that the legislation is still in the Committee of the Whole but can be discussed and asked Councilwoman Gray to discuss the legislation. Councilwoman Gray stated that she sponsored the legislation along with Councilman Icové as a compromise and alternative for council to have some leverage to ensure that the safety forces are maintained. Ms. Gray stated that she would support a reasonable levy but wants assurances that the Mayor does not move forward with layoffs. Compromise – Ruth – sponsored along with Icové. Drafted and introduced as an alternative for council to have some leverage to ensure that our safety forces are reduced. Mayor introduced. Work with council to provide safety forces but I have to have a guarantee that safety forces will not be cut and that if that's the case, she would support removing Resolution 8-13 from the agenda. Ms. Gray stated that if the layoffs happen some residents will be in dire straits because there will be only one squad. Council President Pro Tem Icové

stated that when Council did not vote for the rollback, Mayor Welo issued the layoff notices and that if the Mayor is willing to rescind that layoff notices, Council will consider having a levy on the ballot in November. Council President Pro Tem also asked that Council discuss the numbers to be inserted into the proposed legislation. Councilman Gelfand thanked Councilwoman Gray for proposing the ordinance but said that he has a different point of view and that we are in a fiscal emergency as a result of the cuts from the state and long term fiscal stability and we need to find a way to keep the safety forces and that's why he voted for the rollback and that the layoff notices were given in February and part of the budget process and that Council put off the cuts. Mr. Gelfand stated that at the previous meeting Council heard that the Police did not need minimum staffing and that Fire stated that they did and if we don't need minimums we shouldn't have them and that minimum staffing should probably be done as part of collective bargaining. If 08-13 does move forward then there should be a shall clause inserted that the Mayor let council know if there are problems with collective bargaining and negotiating contracts. But would support 08-13 if the Police Staffing is removed and said that we need to find a way and that's why he voted for the rollback and would do it again. Council President Pro Tem discussed parameters of what Councilmembers would support regarding support of a Safety Levy.

Councilman Fiorelli gave an update from the Finance Director regarding what a Safety Levy would cost per homeowner and how much it would generate. The difference between a 3 mill and a 3.25 mill is about \$90,000 a year and will raise over \$1 million a year for Safety Services. Councilman Fiorelli recommended that the Safety Levy is the best option and present the most palatable plan and that Council needs to unite and work to pass a levy and that's where the energy should be focused.

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 18-13

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF AN ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL PROVISION OF POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER SAFETY SERVICES IN THE CITY, TOGETHER WITH ALL APPURTENANCES THERETO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.19, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to Amend Resolution 18-13

Following discussion a motion was made to amend the Resolution to provide for a Safety Levy of 3.25 mills for a period of 3 years commencing on January 1, 2014 and placing the Levy on the ballot on November 5, 2013 General Election.

Action: Motion to Amend Legislation to add numbers and necessary language for the proposed Safety Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Following Discussion, Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Councilman Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Ilove.

The legislation has been amended.

President Pro-Tem Ilove stated that he does not see a reason to discuss the other legislation at the meeting and would like to see an Economic Plan from the City and he hopes if the Council passes the legislation at the next meeting, the Mayor would rescind the layoff notices. Councilperson Gray asked Chief Nietert who would get laid off if there were layoffs. Council President Pro-Tem Ilove stated that all he needs is a verbal assurance from the Mayor for him to support the removal of Ordinance 08-13 and that he only needs assurance and condition that she would not make any layoffs only through the end of the year. Councilwoman Gray also asked for the same verbal assurance that there would be no layoffs while Council goes through the process of putting a levy on the ballot. If not then she supports the passage of the minimum staffing ordinance.

Council President Pro-Tem stated that he will report back to the Council Members who are not at the meeting and the administration regarding the discussion and actions at the Meeting and to move forward in unison with consensus.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **Seconded by** Councilman Dennis Fiorelli.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Councilman Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Ilove.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Attest:

Council President

Clerk of Council