

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, Goodman, Gray, Icove, Romeo, Miller (6)

Absent: Caroscio

Staff: Benjamin, Blackley, Filippo, Kowalczyk, Lograsso, Nietert, Welo, Martin, Anderson, Love

Approval of Minutes:

Following discussion, It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Fiorelli, that the Minutes of the October 10, 2011 Meeting of City Council be approved.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Gray, Icove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: Goodman.

Absent: Caroscio.

The Minutes have been approved.

Opening Meeting of Council:

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

- Robert Frey, 1299 South Green Road, made comments regarding his remarks several weeks prior that City officials should have known that the economic recession and foreclosure crisis was going to happen. Mr. Frey read a statement, which he said was made by Mayor Welo in December 2010 discussing that she had foreseen signs of the crisis.
 - Linda Pagon, 684 Parkside Road, spoke regarding the speed camera and stated that the solution is for residents to stop speeding on our side streets.
 - Emilie DiFranco, 3867 West 226 St., Fairview Park, asked if retired Service Director Ed Gallagher is currently being paid contractually by the City. Ms. DiFranco also made remarks concerning the use of City cars by seven employees and again questioned if this was a misuse of the vehicles.
-

Mayor's Report:

- **Mayor Welo:**
 - **Engineer Blackley:** reported that despite the wettest year on record, the 2011 Street repair projects are nearly complete on Templethurst.
 - **Building Commissioner Kowalczyk:** reported on the opening of GFS and that Bob Evans was moving forward with their construction documents and approvals.
 - **Finance Director Filippo:** requested Council consideration for Resolutions 50-11 and 51-11 and reported that the administration will begin 2012 budget discussions in the coming weeks, including starting negotiations with the unions.
 - **Service Director Anderson:** requested Council consideration of Resolution 50-11 regarding an emergency generator for the City and reported on City leaf collection and the arrival of the new year-round trucks that can be utilized for leaf pickup, winter road salting and snow removal. The trucks replace old trucks from the 1960s.
 - **Fire Chief Huston:** reported that the Fire Department will be conducting training at a foreclosed home on Linnell prior to the home being demolished. The Chief reported that the replacement Ladder Truck will be delivered sooner than anticipated and at a cost under budget.
 - **Economic Development Coordinator Mike Love:** reported on the opening of Rick's Deli on Mayfield Road.
 - **Mayor Welo:** Answered questions related to Fairview Park resident Emilie DiFranco's assertions regarding the use of City vehicles and stated that the seven cars are utilized by the Chiefs and Service Department officials who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and need access to emergency and communications equipment in the event of any safety or service emergency. Mayor Welo stated that the City is looking at vehicle usage policies adopted by other Cities and will be enacting a policy and that Ms. DiFranco had received the public information that she had requested regarding the matter. Mayor Welo reported on the upcoming South Euclid history presentations at Phoenix Coffee and read a letter from State Auditor David Yost awarding the City the State of Ohio's Award of Distinction for Financial Management and having a clean financial audit.
-

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 41-11

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CCN, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO. THIRD READING.

Councilperson Icove and Councilperson Romeo made remarks and gave a historical perspective as longtime Council members and highlighted the severe problems, disinvestment and blight associated with the old Center dating back decades, including that the old movie theatre had been vacant since 1996 and declared unsafe by the Fire Department in 2004. Councilperson Fiorelli stated that he has lived near Cedar Center for nearly 50 years and that Cedar Center moving forward is positive for the City's future.

Councilperson Goodman stated that cities like South Euclid must be resilient, and respond effectively to challenges that are out of their control, and that Cedar Center is an example of that. Councilperson Gray reported on the success of the opening of GFS Marketplace and that she is proud to be a part of the redevelopment of Cedar Center. However, Ms. Gray is concerned that there is not explicit language guaranteeing jobs for South Euclid residents, and as such she will not be taking the most popular position. Council President Miller stated that the City stuck to a vision and maintained it, and he applauded the work of members of City Council and the Administration and stated that no other City in Northeast Ohio outside of University Circle has as much redevelopment and new economic opportunities happening. Mayor Welo thanked City Council, members of the administration and South Euclid residents for their efforts, hard work and support. Mayor Welo stated that she has discussed the matter of providing jobs for South Euclid residents with the developer and the unions, and they will do what they legally can to help employee South Euclid residents.

Following discussion, It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Goodman, that Resolution 41-11 be approved.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Goodman, Icove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: Gray.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Caroscio.

The Legislation has been approved.

Cedar Center developer, Peter Rubin made comments regarding the history of Cedar Center and the journey to begin a new history with the redevelopment of the new Cedar Center North.

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 50-11

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIRS – CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FUND. FIRST READING.

Following discussion, It was moved by Miller, seconded by Romeo, that Resolution 50-11 be passed.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Goodman, Gray, Icove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Caroscio.

The Legislation has Passed Unanimously.

Introduced by Miller

Resolution 51-11

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING FROM THE COUNTY AUDITOR A TAX ADVANCE FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE 2011 TAX YEAR COLLECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. FIRST READING.

Following discussion, It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Goodman, that Resolution 51-11 be passed.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fiorelli, Goodman, Gray, Icove, Romeo, Miller.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Caroscio.

The Legislation has Passed Unanimously.

Law Director's Report

Law Director Lograsso reported that the sale of property at Cedar Center to Bob Evans Restaurant will close escrow by the end of the week and that negotiations will be starting with the City's four unions in the next few weeks.

Letters & Communications

- Councilperson Goodman stated that County Councilwoman Sunny Simon and County Executive Ed FitzGerald will be having a Community Town Hall meeting on Wednesday evening at 7 pm at Notre Dame College.
 - Councilperson Gray encouraged residents to attend the County Town Hall and to discuss the importance of County funding issues related to health and human service programs, including a school funding issue for students at or below the poverty level.
 - Councilperson Romeo reported that the Elections are coming up on November 8 and reminded residents that they can vote early.
 - Council President Miller reported that the Thanksgiving holidays are approaching and that many residents will have a difficult time providing food for their families and asked that those that can afford to be charitable, to please consider donating food or financial help to the local foodbank.
 - Mayor Welo stated that the City's annual Food Drive for Hunger would begin on November 1st.
-

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss it was moved by Goodman, seconded by Romeo, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Caroscio.

The Meeting has Adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council