

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Jane Goodman called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icove, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2016; January 13, 2016 (Special Meeting); January 25, 2016

January 11, 2016

Action: Motion to Approve Minutes, **Moved by** Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, **Seconded by** Councilman Moe Romeo.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icove, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

The Minutes have been approved.

January 13, 2106 Special Meeting

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Moe Romeo, **Seconded by** Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 6, No = 0, Abstain = 1).

Yes: Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

Abstain: Councilman Ed Icove (was absent at 1/13/16 meeting).

The Minutes have been approved.

January 25, 2016

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, **Seconded by** Councilman Moe Romeo.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icove, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

The Minutes have been approved.

Opening Meeting of Council:

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

- Tracy Jones, 4143 Princeton Blvd, spoke about the proposed rezoning of the Lowden School property. Ms. Jones stated that she has attended all planning commission meetings and asked that City Council deny the request for rezoning. Ms. Jones stated that the proposed 65 unit apartments will permanently change the neighborhood and once it is built, cannot be reversed and that the developers won't own the property forever and the city will have no control of the future use.
- Diana Brown, 4088 Princeton Blvd, spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and stated that more rental in the neighborhood will bring more problems to the area, in addition to issues with traffic. Ms. Brown stated that she is tired of fighting and wants peace.
- Charles Turner, 4549 Lilac Road, requested that City Council correct the minutes from the December 28, 2015 meeting in which he was recorded as saying that he called former Council President David Miller an Uncle Tom. Mr. Turner stated that he did not say that and that Mr. Miller cut his remarks short. Mr. Turner stated that he supports the residents in the Lowden area and asked that the City right the wrong caused by the Police who attacked a senior resident with their police car at 60 mph.
- Pricilla Bradley, 4049 Dartford, spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and thanked the council members that listened to her when she called. Ms. Bradley stated that she has attended all of the meetings on the rezoning issue and that she is against the rezoning. Ms. Bradley stated that she moved to South Euclid from Cleveland when she retired because it's a quiet and safe neighborhood and she would like it to remain that way. Ms. Bradley said that she appreciated the need for tax dollars, but putting the proposed apartments will not be good for the neighborhood and that they are not a tax write-off for big investors.
- Sheryl Rothenberg, 4090 Lowden Road, spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and questioned if the senior apartment building is built, if South Euclid residents would even have the opportunity to live there and stated that there is a website created by a former HUD employee where people anywhere can put their name on a list to live there. Ms. Rothenberg said she is also against the project because she is concerned about the traffic that will be created and issues with children, as Lowden is not a major street.
- Shirelle Boyd, 4097 Princeton Blvd, spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and stated that her home would be in the backyard of the proposed development and that instead of looking out her backyard to see trees, she will see bulldozers, buildings and a parking lot. Ms. Boyd also stated that the initiative is not sustainable and would reduce air quality and that that the development would not only change property values, but also their quality of life.

- Renee Carter, 4072 Suffolk Road, spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and stated that she and her husband moved to South Euclid 20 years ago and saved enough money to put a down payment on their house and stated that through hard work, last week they paid off their home. Ms. Carter stated that she is getting ready to retire and, while she has nothing against senior citizens, but does not want this project in their neighborhood as low income will bring in more crime. Ms. Carter stated that if we allow this project now, how will we prevent more in the future. Ms. Carter's husband stated that he worked for the city for 30 years and the neighborhood already had to deal with major issues with noise and crime when Vicky Whitmore owned the properties on Greenvale. Mr. Carter stated that if the rezoning is approved, it is going to be just like Indian Hills.
- Bess Rhoades, 560 Greenvale, spoke regarding the Lowden rezoning issue and that the current master plan encourages the creation of open space and preserving aesthetic and environmental quality and that the Lowden project goes against all of those master plan elements. Ms. Rhoades stated that the School District has taken no responsibility and stated that they would keep residents informed and never did. Ms. Rhoades stated that there are lots of other options for the Lowden property that have not been presented and encouraged the city to look at grants and private funding to save the property and increase greenspace. Ms. Rhoades stated that for South Euclid residents this is our Pepper Pike and asked that we find a way to maintain what brought residents here in the first place.
- Cassandra Jones, 5044 Mayfield Road, stated that she is the President of the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District Board of Education and gave her monthly report to the community that includes several student scholarship recipients, artistic showcases and upcoming events, including the annual Prom Fashion Show scheduled for February 26th. Ms. Jones thanked all City Council members for working with the schools and that there will not be a School Levy on the ballot this November.

Report of Council Committees:

Zoning & Planning Committee

Councilman Russell reported that the committee met to discuss the current structure of the Planning Commission and look at ways to provide additional professionalism to the commission's membership. Discussions on the matter will be ongoing.

Committee of the Whole

President Goodman reported that the committee met with Judge Byers to discuss Resolution 45-15 regarding the potential for merging the court with another area court and that Council will continue discussing the matter. Ms. Goodman also stated the committee held their monthly budget update meeting and Councilman Romeo reported that the city received approximately \$1 million in January and that disbursements were also around \$1 million. RITA income tax collections are up 3% as a result of the subpoena program and that the City will begin review of the budget in the coming weeks.

Safety Committee

Introduced by Miller

Ordinance 26-15

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 531.09 "ABATEMENT OF CRIMINAL NUISANCES" OF CHAPTER 531 "NUISANCES" OF PART FIVE "GENERAL OFFENSES CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO. **SECOND READING.**

The legislation was placed on second reading. Councilman Ilove requested that the Law Director provide a legal opinion on some issues related to the constitutionality of the legislation. Councilman Gelfand stated that another committee meeting can be scheduled and the Law Director will be invited to be at that meeting to address concerns.

Mayor's Report:

Economic Development Director Love reported on the recent openings of Panda Express and Pacific Grill at Cedar Center and that Cuyahoga County has recommended that the City received 2016 Storefront Renovation Grant that will be utilized to improve the Cedar-Green plaza. Councilwoman Goodman discussed a meeting that City Engineer Blackley attended regarding the Regional Sewer District advisory committee and the availability of funding for projects. Mayor Welo stated that Mr. Blackley will give a presentation about the issue. President Goodman stated that she would like to have a Utilities Committee meeting with the sewer district on February 22nd.

Legislation Requested by the Mayor and Administration

Introduced by Goodman

Ordinance 01-16

ORDINANCE

APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FIRST READING.**

The legislation was placed on First Reading.

Law Director's Report – No Report

Letters & Communications

- Councilman Fiorelli discussed residents that have passed away recently and contributed greatly to the community and asked for a moment of silence in their honor. Mr. Fiorelli discussed the opening of the two new restaurants at Cedar Center.
- Councilman Romeo reported on the issue of First Energy wanting to increase rates to pay for power plant improvements and that the issue is very important as it will cost residents more money and to pay attention to the issue.
- Councilman Russell reported on the recreation survey that is being administered as part of Recreation Committee initiatives and encouraged residents to take the survey and share it with friends and family. Mr. Russell reported that the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday and that the Lowden issue will be on the agenda for discussion.
- Councilman Gelfand scheduled a Safety Committee meeting for March 14, 2016 at 6:45 pm to discuss Resolution 26-15. Councilman Fiorelli requested that the Law Director provide his legal opinion prior to the meeting. Mr. Gelfand also addressed the Lowden issue and thanked the residents for expressing their views.
- Councilwoman Gray spoke about the Lowden rezoning issue and the residents that came to the meeting and stated that she and her colleagues work to represent the voice of the people they serve and that City Council needs to hear from residents about these important issues because sometimes legal and ethical are not the same. Ms. Gray stated that she will do what will be true to her God and represent the residents and thanked them for coming. Ms. Gray also encouraged Ward One residents to take the recreation survey so they have a voice in what is going to happen at Quarry Park, as most residents in the area do not go to Bexley. Councilwoman Gray reported on the Ward One Community Meeting scheduled for March 10 at 6:30 pm.
- President Goodman wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Adjourn

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

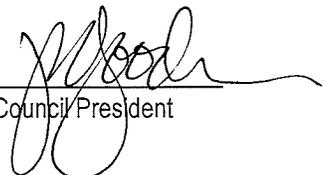
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 7).

Yes: Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icove, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Attest:

Clerk of Council



Council President