

**SPECIAL 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:** Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icové, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

**Absent:** Council President Pro Tem Dennis Fiorelli.

Introduced by Goodman

Ordinance 02-16

**ORDINANCE**

TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **THIRD READING.**

**Action:** Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Moe Romeo, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand. *(This motion was rescinded).*

- Council President Goodman: Asked for brief comments and full statements can be made at the regular council meeting next Monday, as residents will be there to hear them.
- Councilman Romeo: stated that council had a chance to go through the budget and agrees that there are some issue to look at in 2016, but the budget is an estimate and since 2004, every year there has been deficit spending, but the city always finds a way to end the year with around \$3 million in the budget. Mr. Romeo stated that expenditures can be analyzed during the rest of the year.
- Councilman Icové stated that he will respectfully vote against the budget. Mr. Icové stated that Council had two meetings at the beginning of March and then asked twelve questions and got three email responses from the Mayor, but those did not answer all of his questions.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that she will respectfully vote against the budget as the City has a fiduciary responsibility to a balanced budget and she is not happy diving into the reserves and that the city can cut spending and be more conservative. Gray stated that residents don't want to live in a broke down city and if spending is not cut we are going to be there. Councilwoman Gray stated that she has made some recommendations and council did not push back and recommend the changes.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that austerity rarely works, but planning does. Gelfand stated that he appreciated the input from Mr. Russell, the newest member of Council and we can plan for next year as we go through this year to insure that the city provides the services we need.
- Councilman Russell stated that he had concerns about the budget and is going to support the budget as presented. Mr. Russell stated that Council is going to work towards a unified balanced plan, which may not happen in 2017 or 2018, but the city can work to be more efficient and if it's not then his vote will be different.
- Council President Goodman stated that the State of Ohio requires that the City pass a budget by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and the special meeting was necessary to ensure that there was a quorum at the meeting. Ms. Goodman stated that many changes discussed have been discussed for years and that council will schedule monthly meetings to discuss these topics. Council President Goodman stated that Councilman Fiorelli could not be at the meeting, but she appreciated the issues he raised and that council tends to focus only on expenses, but the budget is a two-sided document and revenue needs to be looked at as well. Ms. Goodman said that next year should not be solely focused on cuts, as there is not a lot of fat, so we need to look at opportunities to bring in more revenue.

Motion to amend to include 12 changes to the budget presented to City Council on March 14, 2016

**Action:** Motion to Amend Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Moe Romeo, **Seconded by** Councilman Jason Russell.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

**Yes:** Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icové, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

The legislation has been amended.

**Action:** Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Moe Romeo, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

**Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

**Yes:** Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

**No:** Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icové.

The legislation has been approved.

**Adjourn**

**Action:** Motion to Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilman Moe Romeo, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

**Yes:** Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Ed Icové, Councilman Moe Romeo, Councilman Jason Russell, Council President Jane Goodman.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm

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Council President

Attest:

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Clerk of Council