

SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Dennis Fiorelli called the meeting to order at 6 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

Present: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

Absent: Councilman Marty Gelfand.

It was reported that Councilman Gelfand is on his way to the meeting.

Legislation from Council Committees:

Finance Committee

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 14-18

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PAY A MORAL CLAIM. SECOND READING.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza.

Councilman Gelfand arrived at 6:10 pm and a second roll call was called to mark his attendance.

Roll Call: Second Roll Call to reflect that Councilman Gelfand is in attendance

Present: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

Councilwoman Goodman asked if the City is paying the moral claims in full or are we paying the deductible that the claimant's insurance company did not pay. Upon further discussion, City Council requested that the Law Director provide additional information regarding payments and claims covered and the motion was withdrawn.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 15-18

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PAY A MORAL CLAIM. SECOND READING.

The legislation was placed on second reading pending more information regarding payments and claims.

Committee of the Whole

Introduced by Fiorelli

Ordinance 01-18

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, 2018; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Dennis Fiorelli, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

Upon discussion, the motion was withdrawn to amend the legislation.

Councilwoman Goodman made an amendment to increase Road Fund 425 by \$6,500 for the Grosvenor Road project. The change is budget neutral as the additional funds will be reimbursed from a CDBG grant.

Motion: increase in Road Fund 425 by \$6,500 for Grosvenor Road to be reimbursed by CDBG. **Action:** Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman, **Seconded by** Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

- Finance Director Wendt discussed Fund 440 which represents the sale of bonds in the amount of \$700,000 from the sale of property for the new Planet Fitness at Cedar Center and reduced the short term note from \$1.6 million to \$700,000.
- Councilwoman Goodman requested information regarding the Tree Fund.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that she raised the issue of passing the budget at a special meeting a couple years ago and that she believes this is something that should be done at a regular meeting and it's not a good practice. Ms. Gray stated that Council has discussed the budget long enough and it doesn't look good to have this issue at a special meeting.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that at the previous Council Meeting, this special meeting was scheduled and stated in public that we were having this meeting to discuss the budget and that this is the culmination of many meetings on the budget and that everyone knew about it, including the media and that the City has complied with the letter and spirit of the law.
- Councilman Russell stated that he is not opposed necessarily to deficit spending, but that the city needs to continue looking at long-term planning and strategic investments. Mr. Russell stated that he is encouraged that the Mayor has begun the process of an audit to review long-term capital issues, so that the city can begin setting funds aside.
- Councilwoman Continenza stated that she understands Councilwoman Gray's concerns and that maybe in the future this vote can be taken in front of more people. Ms. Continenza stated that Councilman Russell's comments are well taken and thanked the Mayor for taking care of the city and being diligent with spending and that she would feel more comfortable having a timeline to discuss the next budget and set a month to have a plan in place.
- Councilman Frank stated that there have been conversations about the Finance Committee having regular meetings to look at projections and that the city needs to start the budget process earlier next year and not wait.
- Councilwoman Goodman stated that strategic financial planning and passing an annual budget are two different things and that over the past year, City Council has held monthly meetings looking at outstanding monies owed the city and looked at decreasing costs and increasing revenues.
- Council President Fiorelli that he fully supports the budget, but that has the Mayor has stated, the budget needs to be completed earlier and the city needs to look at increasing revenues. Mr. Fiorelli distributed a memo that he will propose as a Resolution with a process and timeline for the 2019 budget and work to keep a general fund balance of not less than 20% and looking at increasing the revenues that were discussed with residents at the town hall meeting. Mr. Fiorelli stated that we need to be accountable and put it in writing as a resolution.
- Mayor Welo stated that since 2016 City Council has met every month to review the budget and has taken the time to look at every department budget for cost savings. Ms. Welo stated that in 2017, City Council received the draft 2018 Budget in April and held town-hall meetings for residents of every ward to discuss the need to increase revenues. Mayor Welo stated that she has discussed moving forward for 2019 with Finance Committee Chair Frank and that they are working on a timeline to bring the draft budget to council in April and the need for council to review and make decisions on the street lighting assessments, safety levy and other revenue sources. Ms. Welo stated that Council is very informed about these issues, especially Councilwoman Gray, who works for a city and Councilman Fiorelli who has a financial background. Mayor Welo thanked City Council for their hard work and that she will hold the line on the budget this year.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Dennis Fiorelli, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

The legislation has been approved.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Attest:

Council President

Clerk of Council