

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

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

Roll Call

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

Minutes of Meetings January 14, 2019

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **Seconded by** Councilman Joe Frank.

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

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

The minutes have been approved.

Report of Mayor & Department Heads

- Economic Development Director Love reported on the public meeting regarding One South Euclid's Neighborhood Grant Program and that applications are available for residents beginning February 1st at www.onesoutheuclid.org.
- Engineer Andy Blackley reported on bid openings for 2019 road projects.

Report of Law Director – no report.**Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items** none**Report of Committees**

Safety Committee

Councilman Gelfand reported that the committee met regarding Ordinance 30-18 regarding updating the city's fire code and that amendments were made to the legislation and recommended by the committee for consideration at the next meeting of city council.

Committee of the Whole

Council President Fiorelli reported that the committee met to discuss the proposed legislation regarding the income tax credit rollback and legislation related to holding public hearings. Amendments were made and discussion will continue. Mr. Fiorelli reported that the city closed 2018 approximately \$1.3 million under budget.

Legislation to be removed from Docket by Request of City Council

Introduced by Fiorelli

Ordinance 10-14

ORDINANCE

CREATING NEW CHAPTER 1333 "DONATION BOXES" OF TITLE FIVE "OTHER BUILDING PROVISIONS" OF PART THIRTEEN "BUILDING CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO. **TO BE REMOVED FROM COUNCIL DOCKET JANUARY 28, 2019.**

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

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

The legislation has been removed from council docket.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Ordinance 23-17

ORDINANCE

AMENDING SECTION 6 OF ORDINANCE 21-16; FIXING THE SALARY RANGE, COMPENSATION AND RATES OF PAY FOR VARIOUS OFFICES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017; TO AMEND THE SALARIES RECEIVED BY BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **TO BE REMOVED FROM COUNCIL DOCKET JANUARY 28, 2019.**

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Councilman Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell.

- Councilman Gelfand stated that a couple of years ago Council may have acted too quickly to try to save a few dollars and changed how board and commission members are paid, which impacted their benefits and that this issue should be revisited.
- Councilwoman Continenza stated that morale really dropped when the changes were made and that she agrees with Councilman Gelfand.
- Councilman Goodman stated that Council should start from scratch and bring the ordinance back from where it originally was.
- Councilman Frank stated that this issue needs to be revisited again, but also all the salaries, as the city needs to stay competitive with other communities and make sure that employees are not being overpaid.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that part of the issue is that boards and commissions were not meeting on a regular basis but getting paid regardless and agreed that the issue should be revisited and suggested that the Mayor consider coming up with standard operating procedures and guidance for commission members in order to maintain compensation for the time that they work.
- Councilman Russell stated that City Council went through the entire salary ordinance a year and half ago and looked at what other communities are paying and approved it. Mr. Russell stated that Boards and Commissions are positions that do not require providing retirement benefits and maybe that's the way it should be.
- Council President Fiorelli stated that removing the ordinance does not have to be permanent and that legislation can be re-introduced with appropriate changes.

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

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

No: Councilman Marty Gelfand.

The legislation has been removed from Council Docket.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Ordinance 05-18

ORDINANCE

AMENDING CHAPTER 731 "PERMITTED USES IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS" BY ENACTING NEW SECTION 731.07 "MAJOR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS" OF TITLE THREE "COMMERCIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS" OF PART SEVEN "THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID OHIO. **TO BE REMOVED FROM COUNCIL DOCKET JANUARY 28, 2019.**

Action: Approve, **Moved By** Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell,

Seconded By Councilman Joe Frank.

Councilman Russell stated that the legislation was discussed in committee and needs major revisions and the Zoning and Planning committee recommended that this legislation be removed and that the Planning Commission start from scratch with recommendations and new legislation.

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote (**Summary:** Yes = 7).

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

The legislation had been removed from Council Docket.

Legislation Requested by City Council

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 02-19

RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO IMMEDIATELY RESTORE THE SERVICES AND FUNDING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY WORK TOGETHER TO FIND ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE METHODS AND POLICIES TO CONTROL THE BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES. FIRST READING.

- Councilman Gelfand described proposed amendments to the resolution as a result of the end of the federal government shutdown and that the initial legislation was proposed while the shutdown was still active.

- Councilwoman Goodman asked that with the many proposed revisions, that the legislation be placed on first reading and put on the agenda for February 11th when there might be more urgency with another potential shutdown looming.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that there is urgency now and that there is potential for another shutdown in three weeks and that it is a serious threat to the functioning of our government and South Euclid can be one of the first in northeast Ohio to be leaders and say no to the shutdown.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that she agrees with Councilman Gelfand regarding the impact the shutdown has had on a lot of families and those receiving SNAP benefits and that the shutdown has impacted South Euclid and other cities and will result in reductions in income tax and other financial hits to government. Ms. Gray stated that the city should be making a statement and ask the State of Ohio to have some contingencies in place to help families and cities if there is another shutdown because there will be an impact that the city will be talking about at the end of the year.
- Councilman Goodman stated that she supports the resolution, but she would appreciate the ability to look at the proposed new language and have an opportunity to contribute.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that on Friday, we didn't know that the shutdown would be suspended, which is why he is proposing amendments.

Action: amend legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza.

The proposed amendments were read for consideration and Councilwoman Gray suggested that Council wait two weeks and work on the language.

The motion was rescinded, and the legislation was placed on first reading.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Charles Turner, 4549 Lilac Road, stated that council members remember the city's attempt to reduce his right to protest around city hall and that legislation regarding this issue never made it out of council committee. Mr. Turner stated that the administration came up with new rules and regulations regarding conduct at city hall and that it was posted on November 3, 2017 and amended with a second version. Mr. Turner stated that the wrong version is nailed to the wall and at the community center. Mr. Turner asked if someone took the new version down intentionally. Mr. Turner stated that the city has lost two of the four criminal cases they have charged against him and the city has sent it to the court of appeals.
- Linda Pagon, 684 Parkside, thanked everyone for holding the public hearings and stated that she appreciates the time that council put in to the meetings. Ms. Pagon stated that she was surprised to learn how much damage and needed repair there is to city buildings and that their repair needs to be a high priority and better communicated to residents. Ms. Pagon stated that when the safety levy was passed, she heard that officers were retiring and that the city was down three officers which resulted in a lot of overtime and that the city today is down three officers and overtime is \$250,000 and questioned the wisdom of paying overtime versus hiring officers.

Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Continenza thanked all residents that came to the community meetings and discussed how the One South Euclid community grant program is an asset to the community and asked resident to spread the word. Ms. Continenza reported on upcoming planning meetings regarding this summer's Bexley Bash and asked residents to consider joining and helping plan the events.
- Council President Fiorelli thanked Councilwoman Continenza for stepping up and putting a lot of time and effort into putting the PowerPoint presentation together for the Town Hall meetings.
- Councilman Frank reported that South Euclid Lyndhurst School District Founder's Day will be February 13th and will honor teachers and PTA members who have made significant contributions to the district. Mr. Frank stated that as a result of the impending bad weather, the January 30th Budget Hearing has been rescheduled to February 18th.
- Regarding the impending severe cold weather, Mayor Welo asked Fire Chief Stefko to provide an update on city warming centers. Chief Stefko stated that the community center will serve as a warming center during normal business

hours and that city hall by the police department is open 24-7 as a warming center. Mayor Welo stated that both buildings have emergency generators, should there be power outages.

- Councilwoman Goodman stated that there will be a meeting regarding the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District plan on February 13th at 6:30 pm in Mayfield Heights at the Community Center. Ms. Goodman complimented the Service Department on their excellent work during the recent storm and gave an update on Tree Commission meetings and the appeals process.
- Councilwoman Goodman reported that the Citizen's Recreation Committee will meet on February 26th and scheduled a Council Recreation Committee for February 25th at 6:30 pm. Ms. Gray stated that she was very impressed with the presentation that was put together for the town hall meetings and stated that it was great that all of council came together and were unified in their message and that she appreciates all of the residents that came to the meetings. Ms. Gray stated that they have stumbled upon something with the town hall meetings that they should do on a more regular basis.
- Councilman Frank agreed with Councilwoman Gray and discussed having quarterly electronic town hall meetings to communicate with residents.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that planning for the Memorial Parade is already in progress, and those interested in participating in the parade should contact the community center director. Mr. Gelfand stated that with the impending cold weather, that residents and staff, especially first responders and service department crews, stay safe. Mr. Gelfand expressed his appreciation to his colleagues on how they came together to make a great presentation.
- Councilman Russell echoed what his colleagues said regarding the success of the town hall meetings and said he was encouraged by how many residents stayed following the meeting to talk to councilmembers and that all the meetings were packed with residents, including Sunday afternoon.
- Council President Fiorelli thanked Director Benjamin for all his work organizing and administrating the town hall meetings, as well as Meg Martines and the Community Center staff who made sure that the room was set up for all the meetings.

Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Action: Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending litigation, **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, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 9:03 pm.

Adjourn

Action: Adjourn Council Meeting, **Moved by** Councilman Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

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

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

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council