

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Pro Tem Russell called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli.

Minutes of Meetings: October 22, 2018, November 12, 2018 & November 26, 2018

October 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 5, No = 0, Abstain = 1).

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

Abstain: Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The minutes have been approved.

November 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to Approve Minutes, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman **Seconded by** Councilman Joe Frank.

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

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The minutes have been approved.

November 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza.

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

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The minutes have been approved.

Citizen's Police Academy Recognition Ceremony The graduates of the most recent citizen's police academy were recognized and awarded certificates of completion.

Report of Mayor

- Mayor Welo reported that all directors are in attendance except for Service Director Jim Anderson and City Engineer Andy Blackley.
- Economic Development Director Mike Love requested council consideration of Resolution 72-18 conveying a property at South Green and Liberty Road to One South Euclid. The property has been vacant for about ten years. Director Love reported on upcoming presentations for the Mayfield and Green YARD Plan at the Planning Commission meeting on December 20 and Community Meeting on January 10, 2019.
- Fire Chief Stefko informed City Council reported on the five-year ISO public protection classification and stated that the classification has been lowered from a three to a two, which is positive and could also reduce insurance costs for businesses and residents. Chief Stefko stated that there are several reasons for the positive reclassification, including building up fire department staffing levels, increased training, restored preventative maintenance programs and regional joint dispatch program. Chief Stefko also discussed the regional fire department testing process to attract potential firefighter candidates and that the new recruitment efforts have paid off with the receipt of 224 applications for the test.

- Mayor Welo stated that without the support of our residents, we could have never brought back our force and move forward with effective training and moving forward with the regional dispatch project. Mayor Welo thanked Chief Nietert and Director Benjamin for leading the way with the regional dispatch grant process and Finance Director Wendt and Law Director Lograsso for their work on making the regional consolidation a reality.
- Mayor Welo thanked the South Euclid Humane Society for the Pets Light Up Our Lives fundraiser on December second and stated that the Humane Society raises funds to care for abandoned animals and their efforts save city dollars. Ms. Welo thanked One South Euclid for sponsoring the Holiday Lighting Ceremony and stated it was an amazing event and reported on other community events including the Friends of Euclid Creek Holiday Celebration, Muffins with Principal Murphy at Greenview School, also attended by Councilman Gelfand and Councilwoman Continenza, the First Suburbs Consortium Superintendents Initiative working to change how the state ranks schools and funding issues and the opening of the Planet Fitness at Cedar Center. Mayor Welo congratulated residents that completed the latest Police Citizen's Academy.

Report of Law Director & Department Heads

Law Director Lograsso reported on Resolution 74-18 authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Ohio Government Benefit Collaborative with other cities to pool together resources to lower health care costs.

Report of School District

Neil Blumberg from the South Euclid Lyndhurst School Board reported on several school district events and initiatives including the First Ring Superintendents group discussed earlier by Mayor Welo and that Superintendent Reid has been leading the efforts. Mr. Blumberg reported on the National Honor Society Food Drive, Memorial Jr. High Science Expo, Regional Choir event, Brush Band Concert and winter sporting events. Mr. Blumberg stated that there is a lot of work being done to maintain and repair school facilities and that many of the repairs that used to be made by outside contractors are now being done in-house to save financial resources and keep school buildings safe.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items – None.

Report of Committees

Zoning & Planning Committee

Council President Pro Tem Russell reported that the Zoning & Planning Committee met regarding Resolution 17-16 Comprehensive Master Plan and Ordinance 01-17 regarding Architectural Board Review of Walls and Fences. Both pieces of legislation were recommended for consideration at the December 27th Council Meeting.

Finance Committee

Councilman Frank reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss Ordinance 31-18 regarding the proposed reduction of the Income Tax Credit and stated that there was a lot of discussion in committee by members of council and residents. Mr. Frank stated that the legislation was placed on second reading in November but remains in committee so that there can be additional council and resident discussion at the next Finance Committee Meeting on December 27th and encouraged residents to please attend and let council know their thoughts as this issue is very important for the city.

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 72-18

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONVEY CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO TO ONE SOUTH EUCLID. FIRST READING.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The legislation has been approved.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 73-18

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHIOBIZ, LLC. TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTAIN THE WORLD WIDE WEBSITE FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO. FIRST READING.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Councilwoman Goodman stated that Mr. Geyman is not raising rates for service for 2019. **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The legislation has been approved.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 74-18

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO GOVERNMENT BENEFIT COOPERATIVE. FIRST READING.

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

- Councilman Frank stated that this is another excellent example of regionalism. Law Director Lograsso stated that working with other communities to save on healthcare costs will result in a savings of approximately 1% from 2018 because the city is joining a regional consortium with over 1,000 employees in the consortium instead of approximately 150 just in South Euclid.
- Mr. Lograsso stated that this is in addition to other insurance and health benefit savings that have been realized this year, including saving an additional \$158,000 by allowing Tier 4 prescription drugs. Law Director Lograsso stated that someone recently brought up the issue of only offering insurance to employees and not allowing spouses and children on plans to cut costs. Mr. Lograsso stated that under the Affordable Care Act, it is against the law for the city not to provide coverage for dependent children of employees less than 26 years of age.
- Councilwoman Gray asked if the City has other options or is locked into the insurance consortium. Law Director Lograsso stated that the City can always explore other options and is free to leave the consortium at any time.
- Councilman Gelfand commented on the fact that the ACA requires member's children to be on the plan should not be looked at as a burden, but a responsibility and is a good thing and the right thing to do.
- Councilwoman Goodman asked if a spouse has family coverage that is as good or better than the city's coverage, could they go with the spouses insurance and save city dollars. Mayor Welo stated that the city does offer incentives to employees if their spouse has insurance available.
- Mayor Welo thanked Law Director Lograsso and Finance Director Wendt for their hard work on lowering our insurance costs and thanked the employee unions for always being open to communications and conversations around these issues and having constructive dialogue to reduce costs and make things better. Ms. Welo said that everything the city does involves people and employees to keep us safe and provide services to the community.
- Mr. Lograsso thanked the Police, Fire and Service Unions for being open and willing to work with the city on these issues.

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

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The legislation has been approved.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Susan Stone, 1976 Temblehurst, stated that she is having an issue with a neighbor regarding the storing of her husband's boat in the driveway and a neighbor complaining that it is a violation. Ms. Stone stated that the issue went to court and that they are allowed to keep in the boat in the driveway for three days before needing to move it. Ms. Stone stated that the issue also went before the BZA and they denied her request to allow the boat to be kept in the driveway, despite the support of neighbors. Ms. Stone stated that they have an attached garage and it perhaps is discriminatory because of the style of house they own. Council President Pro Tem Russell stated that there are several issues, one the court order and the BZA ruling.
- Charles Turner, 4549 Lilac Road, spoke regarding his public records requests and the Mayor's use of city funds to campaign for re-election. Mr. Turner stated that the Police Chief and Law Director are denying his requests for records and the Chief has not given serious consideration and lies about saying that he doesn't have a daily shift log and that the Mayor once again called the police on him for something that was not a violation of rules and regulation and that the city needs a qualified law director and the Chief of Police doesn't have a criminal justice degree.
- Dennis Silsby, 4428 Greenway, stated that he has lived in South Euclid for over 47 years and recently wrote a letter to the editor regarding the failure of the income tax levy and the importance of communication of the need for the levy and stated that the voters did not understand why the levy was needed and council did not pursue to tell the voters why. Mr. Silsby stated that the pamphlet was too vague and there was not enough information, for example about the magnitude of structural repairs needed. Mr. Silsby stated that residents did not show up to the community meetings or council meetings and the Council did not recognize how great an effort was needed to convey the reasoning and asked how does the city successfully deliver the message to residents.

Communications of City Council

- Councilman Gelfand reported that also discussed earlier in the Planning and Zoning Committee was Ordinance 21-17 regarding walls and fences and there is additional need for discussion on the issue. Mr. Gelfand discussed several community events including the Musical Playmakers, a regional youth theatre group performing at the Jewish Community Center, the success of the South Euclid Humane Society's Pets Light Up Our Lives event, and the Greenview School Muffins with Principal Murphy. Mr. Gelfand stated that it is of great benefit to South Euclid students to come together as one class at Greenview Upper Elementary and that this helps prepare youth for middle and high school years, and he is advocating for the same in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools. Councilman Gelfand stated that Hanukah ends at sundown tonight and wished everyone that celebrates a happy Christmas and holiday season.
- Councilwoman Gray, wished everyone happy holidays, Christmas, Kwanza and wished everyone safety and goodwill.
- Councilwoman Goodman discussed the Notre Dame College Falcons Football Team and the championship game that was televised on ESPN and what a great team it is and wished everyone happy holidays.
- Councilman Frank stated that he did watch the Notre Dame College football game and wished everyone happy holidays.
- Councilwoman Continenza wished everyone happy holidays and asked that everyone be safe. Ms. Continenza asked that residents reflect on what they want to see in the community and reported on the first planning meeting for the 2019 Bexley Bash events this summer. The meeting will be held on January 17th at 6 pm at the Community Center.
- Council President Pro Tem Russell asked about scheduling budget hearings. Director Benjamin responded that another doodle poll would be sent out with additional dates in January for consideration.
- Police Chief Nietert reported on the court hearing regarding the defendants that dumped thousands of tires this summer and that one of the defendants was found guilty.
- Council President Pro Tem scheduled a Planning and Zoning Meeting for January 14 at 7 pm to discuss Ordinances 05-18 and 06-18.
- Councilwoman Goodman scheduled a Service Committee Meeting for January 14 at 6 pm to discuss Ordinance 32-18 regarding rubbish and recycling service.

- Councilwoman Gray asked to schedule the public hearing requested at the Finance Committee Meeting. The meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2019 at 7 pm.
- Council President Pro Tem Russell wished everyone happy holidays.

Adjourn

Russell, Gelfand

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Pro Tem Jason Russell, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

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

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

Absent: Council President Dennis Fiorelli

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 pm

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council