

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Joe Frank called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

Amend Agenda to add Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending litigation.

Action: Motion to Amend Agenda to Add Executive Session, **Moved by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

The Agenda has been amended.

Minutes of Meetings: May 26, 2020

Action: Motion to Approve Minutes, **Moved by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

The Minutes have been approved.

Report of Mayor

- Mayor Welo reported that all directors are present except for Police Chief Nietert.
- Poet Laureate Doc Janning recited the poem "Cloak of Night".
- Economic Development Director Love introduced Cleveland Foundation Summer Intern Lauren Lanham who will be working to manage the City's Community Gardens.
- City Engineer Blackley gave an update on 2020 summer road and infrastructure projects.
- Community Services Director Benjamin reported on community diversity efforts.
- Mayor Welo reported on the Rock the Block Food Drive held last Saturday which raised \$3,491 to be distributed to the four local food banks. Over 1,330 pounds of food was collected for donation to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Mayor Welo also reported on the Community Partnership on Aging's Produce Plus distribution to senior citizens and gave out over 11,000 pounds of produce last week.
- Mayor Welo thanked Councilman Tisdale, Councilwoman Gray, residents Artoria Ambers, Anne and Mason Caminiti and Chanell Elston for their efforts organizing the peaceful march and rally in support of Black Lives Matter. Ms. Welo stated that participating in the event was a proud moment for her and there is lots of work that needs to be done to end systemic racism.

Report of Law Director: None

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items

No speakers.

Report of CommitteesRecreation Committee

Councilwoman Continenza reported that the committee discussed the deer population issue and go over options including lethal and non-lethal population control. Ms. Continenza stated that whatever decision council ends up making, it will include looking at sterilization as well, but the immediate issue is to maintain herd health. The committee will continue discussion. Ms. Continenza also reported that the committee discussed recreation efforts in the city and what can be done while living with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Safety Committee

Councilman Gelfand reported that the committee met to discuss several pieces of legislation that have been in the Committee including Ord. 08-20 regarding the NOPEC Do Not Knock registry, and ordinances regarding party center regulations and abatement of nuisances. Two of the ordinances are on the agenda for consideration.

Committee of the Whole

Council President Frank reported that the committee met to discuss the city's finances and tax collection and reported that the city is fortunate that we are a bedroom community as South Euclid has not been hit as hard as other communities that rely on economic tax base from businesses. Mr. Frank stated that the tax collection remains at 4% above forecast, but the city is looking at least a \$800,000 shortfall in income tax collection and the City won't know the impact from property tax collections until the fall. Mayor Welo stated that she is reviewing every expenditure and the goal is to keep services to residents whole without cuts. President Frank stated that the administration has done an outstanding job managing spending during the crisis.

Safety Committee

Introduced by Frank

Ordinance 12-19

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance amending Section 1137.03 "Prohibitions" of Chapter 1137 "Party Centers" of Part Eleven "Business Regulations Code" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of South Euclid, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. **Second Reading.**

The legislation was placed on second reading and remains in the Safety Committee.

Introduced by Frank

Ordinance 02-20

ORDINANCE

Amending Section 531.09 "Abatement of Criminal Nuisances" of Chapter 531 "Nuisances" of Part Five "General Offenses" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of South Euclid, Ohio. **Second Reading.**

Councilman Gelfand made a motion to remove the Ordinance from the Council Docket, which was seconded by Councilwoman Continenza. Mr. Gelfand stated that the way the nuisance ordinance is right now is good and doesn't need additional circumspect on the additions of additional parking and housing violations as nuisances.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 5, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

No: Council President Joe Frank, Councilwoman Susan Hardy.

The ordinance has been removed and tabled.

Introduced by Frank

Ordinance 08-20

ORDINANCE

Amending Section 1127.07 "Trespassing in Violation of Posted Signs" of Chapter 1127 "Canvassing, Soliciting or Peddling for Residential Sales of Property and for Charitable Purposes" of Part Eleven "Business Regulation Code" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of South Euclid, Ohio. **Second Reading.**

The legislation was placed on second reading and referred back to the Safety Committee.

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 37-20

RESOLUTION

Submitting the question of renewing an existing tax levy for the purpose of providing funds for the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of roads and streets in the city. Together with all necessary incidentals and appurtenances thereto, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.19, to the electors of the City of South Euclid. First Reading.

The legislation was placed on First Reading and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Emily Koritz, 1732 South Belvoir Blvd., stated that she thinks the City is in a very interesting place and asked why the name of George Floyd did not come up by anyone at the meeting and said that it is a concern. Ms. Koritz stated that we use our safety forces to great benefit and they can be teachers, but it's important that we don't ask police officers to be our conscience and the police need to be relieved of the position of arbiters in determining what are false claims of racial prejudice and should be relieved of that burden.

Communications of City Council

- Councilman Gelfand, who was attending his last meeting as a member of city council stated that he really has enjoyed his time as a member of city council and learned a lot and was proud to gain the trust of the residents of South Euclid for the many years he has served on council. Mr. Gelfand thanked the residents of the City for giving him the opportunity to serve.
- Councilwoman Continenza stated to Councilman Gelfand that it has been a pleasure working with and learning from him. Ms. Continenza discussed the Bexley Community Group which is going to start re-engaging and will work on a garden project and work with officer to coordinate safety in the park. Councilwoman Continenza spoke of the rally and march in support of racial justice and stated that she loved that police officers walked with the residents and it made her very proud.
- Councilwoman Hardy reported that she received a gift card as part of the Rock the Block Food Drive for Engel's Sports Bar and Grille in South Euclid and stated that the food was delicious and is thankful to be introduced to someplace new. Ms. Hardy also reported on the rally and thanked the residents and Councilman Tisdale for organizing the event. Ms. Hardy thanked Councilman Gelfand for his service.
- Councilwoman Goodman thanked Councilman Gelfand for his service and stated that they've had their moments over the years but she is grateful for his sage advice and thankful for his work to bring the Cedar Center Neighborhood to an active state. Ms. Goodman congratulated South Euclid resident Karrie Howard on being appointed Cleveland's Director of Public Safety and also brought up the council appointment process for Mr. Gelfand's replacement. Ms. Goodman discussed several events including Cuyahoga River Day, an Invasive Plant Workshop and the parade for ten-year old Nathaniel Honvou who won the national American Ninja Warrior Junior competition.
- Councilwoman Gray thanked Councilman Gelfand for his years of service and stated that she learned a great deal from him and that he has always possessed a strong social justice constitution. Ms. Gray stated that she remembers when Mr. Gelfand was Legal Counsel for Congressman Kucinich and she was the Director of the Empowerment Center and that he will be missed and council has large shoes to fill. Ms. Gray thanked Councilman Tisdale for organizing the walk and rally on Saturday and stated that it was very impactful and that South Euclid is always at the forefront and not afraid to address tough issues. Councilwoman Gray stated that she has had conversations with the Police Chief Nietert about some things she would like to see to make life better for us, more participatory with residents embracing police officers and have the police officers embrace the community. Ms. Gray stated that she talked to Chief Nietert about education and he will discuss with City Council about actions he is taking to promote social justice in policing and that's the spirit of South Euclid.
- Councilman Tisdale thanked that team that helped him put the rally and march together and also Chief Nietert for his assistance and thanked Council and the Mayor for showing up. Mr. Tisdale stated that it was heartwarming to see several hundred people marching and chanting together down Mayfield Road and using their voices for those who cannot. Mr. Tisdale stated that we don't always need to invoke the names of George Floyd or Tamir Rice as the purpose is getting out there and taking a stand and we can say their names, but nothing will change unless we insist on it. Mr. Tisdale stated that change also doesn't happen overnight and takes time and commitment.
- Council President Frank thanked Councilman Gelfand for his insight and passion for the City and that he can be replaced on council but is not replaceable. Mr. Frank stated that he was fortunate to participate at the rally with his nieces and issues of systemic racism need to be talked about every day and allow voices to

speak up. Mr. Frank stated that he was able to speak with Brush graduate and former South Euclid resident Brandon McGhee at the Rally and how proud his is to live in South Euclid.

- Mayor Welo thanked Councilman Gelfand for his years of service and discussed the importance of being a public servant and working to create an exciting and dynamic community.
- Councilman Tisdale thanked Councilman Gelfand for his help and sticking by him and campaigning with him.

Adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending litigation.

Action: Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session, **Moved by** Council President Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

Council Adjourned to Executive Session at 9:21 pm.

Adjourn

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

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:22 pm

Attest:

Council President

Clerk of Council