



Norwood City Council

Council Chambers | Norwood City Hall

4645 Montgomery Road | Norwood, Ohio 45212

March 26, 2024 | 7:30pm

A) CALL TO ORDER

The Council for the City of Norwood met in a regular session on the above date with Mr. Joseph Geers presiding. The meeting opened with a moment of reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance.

B) MOMENT OF REFLECTION

C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D) ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members answered present: Mrs. Franzen, Mrs. Hoover, Ms. Royce, Mrs. Bowling, Mrs. Winterbauer, Mr. Girton, and Mr. Breadon.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Mrs. Bowling, it was moved to amend the agenda as follows: remove the meeting minutes and add a resolution honoring Brigid Kelly, with the resolution honoring Brigid Kelly to be considered immediately following the amendment of the agenda. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1) **March 12, 2024– Regular Meeting**
(removed during amendment of the agenda)

G) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1) **Mike Skelly Re: Community Development Annual Report**
Mr. Skelly reported on his work in Community Development regarding operations, policy development, organizational development, and economic development. He gave an overview of accomplishments and future goals of the Community Development Department.

H) PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

I) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- 1) **Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Dani Isaacsohn, and Anna Albi Re: Brigid Kelly Tribute**
State Representative Dani Isaacsohn, Cincinnati Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, and Cincinnati Councilwoman Anna Albi spoke to honor the public service career of Hamilton County Auditor and former Norwood Councilwoman Brigid Kelly.
- 2) **Sonny James Re: Community**
Mr. James about the ability for Norwood to continue to do great work. He also commented on the success of the community meal he attended with Charlene Meyer at Holy Trinity Church.
- 3) **Charlene Meyer Re: Community Meal**
Ms. Meyer invited everyone to the next community meal on April 11, 2024. She stated that members of the Norwood Fire Department would be in attendance.
- 4) **Tom Cantwell Re: Alcohol in Victory Park**
Mr. Cantwell stated that he lives at 2032 Maple Avenue. He voiced concern about the ordinance regarding Victory Park. He referenced the need to incorporate veterans and also referenced the common mental health challenges within the veteran population, including alcoholism. Mr. Cantwell stated that the park is currently being misused for illicit drug alcohol related activities, and that Victory Park should be able to become a safe, vibrant space. He stated that it may be possible to reach a "happy medium" by inserting mitigating factors for when and how alcohol can be used, but that as of now, those factors are not in place.

5) Ricky Paul

Re: Alcohol in Victory Park

Mr. Paul, residing at 2320 Lyle Lane, state he is an honorably discharged veteran as well as the Commander of the American Legion 123. He stated that the Legion opposes alcohol use in the park. He recommended that the park be expanded to honor veterans of other wars, such as Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Mr. Paul referenced a time when alcohol was allowed in the park in the 1980s, which led to disrespectful and delinquent behavior in the park.

6) Rick Hirsch

Re: Alcohol in Victory Park

Mr. Hirsch, residing on Quatman Avenue, stated he is a Co-Chair of the Victory Park Veterans Association. He stated that the Association has been working for decades with the support of the City of Norwood to improve the park over the past several decades. He stated that the Association is against both separating portions of the park and allowing alcohol in the park, though they do see the need to improve the park.

7) Dave Bentz

Re: Alcohol in Victory Park

Mr. Bentz stated that he is a previous resident of Norwood. He stated that he hopes Mayor Schneider vetoes the ordinance if it were to pass. He believes that anyone affiliated with the Northwood Cidery should abstain from voting on the ordinance.

8) John Atwood

Re: Alcohol in Victory Park

Mr. Atwood, residing at 2219 Madison Avenue, recognized the benefit of an active, vibrant park for Norwood. He echoed the idea of expanding the park to recognize more veterans. Mr. Bentz stated that set principle banning alcohol in the park out of respect to the memorial and veterans should be adhered to, despite the economic benefit of having events with alcohol at the park.

J) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1) Infrastructure: Streets, Parks, Recreation & Public Places—3/12/2024

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Girton, it was moved to accept the report. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

K) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no third readings of ordinances or resolutions.

L) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF A HISTORIC MARKER AT THE BASE OF NORWOOD MOUND IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THAT MARKER.

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to have the second reading of the resolution. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

M) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 723 OF THE NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED “HOME SALES” AND RENAMING CHAPTER 723 AS “YARD SALE”, AS AMENDED.

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Mrs. Winterbauer, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mrs. Hoover noted that the name had been changed from “home sales” to “yard sales”, made the dates permanent, and designated it for the second week of both May and September, as well as the option to make Sunday sales, and the ability to facilitate sales on the City Website.

Mrs. Bowling noted that it was no longer required for residents to state the length of time they have resided in Norwood to be granted a permit.

All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 561 OF THE NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED “PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS” TO EXPAND AND CLARIFY ALCOHOL PERMITS, AND TO MODIFY VICTORY PARK’S STATUS.

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Winterbauer, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mrs. Franzen invited Mr. Gabbard to make any comments he may have. Mr. Gabbard explained that the ordinance originated when it was discovered that there were only two parks that allowed alcohol permits

under a park shelter. The ordinance provides Recreation with guidelines on how to proceed with issuing permits, whatever the ultimate decision by Council might be.

Mr. Girton read a portion of the ordinance aloud to clarify that the ordinance would only allow a small amount of alcohol in a reserved shelter space and would therefore not allow open carry in the park. He also referenced the frequent use of drugs and alcohol in Victory Park currently. He stated a need for a solution to this issue.

Mrs. Hoover stated that disagreeing is not disrespect, and that it appears that the main issue at hand in the park is drunkenness rather than drinking. She referenced a conversation she had with Chief of Police Sumner about whether or not he thought the permit would create a drunkenness problem in the park; she stated that he did not believe so. Mrs. Hoover stated that a permit must be acquired in someone's name for alcohol to be consumed in the park, which would add a layer of accountability and responsibility to the individual seeking to have alcohol in the park shelter space. She stated her desire to have more conversations with community members regarding the future of the park.

Mrs. Bowling stated that the park would honor veterans most by being used respectfully and celebrated. She referenced that in her former job at the Northwood Cidery across the street from the park, she did not see the park being used in this way. She stated her hope to have more community programming in the park to better respect the park and discourage misuse of the park.

Mrs. Franzen stated that the park is not a church or cemetery, and stated that she did not understand the conflict of having more events at the park and referenced that there was a pool at the park at one point in time. Mr. Girton stated that he would be happy to have more conversations with community members one on one. Ms. Royse referenced text on some of the signs held by audience members and clarified that the ordinance does not lower the drinking age or permit minors to drink in the park.

Mr. Breadon stated that the wishes of any number of veterans in opposition to alcohol in the park should be honored. Mrs. Franzen stated that other family friendly events with alcohol are frequently held, including at other veteran memorial parks. She also referenced that the permits would be limited to the gazebo and area away from the memorial. Mrs. Hoover stated that Councilmembers' emails are available on the website so that times for individual conversations can be arranged outside of Council meetings.

Mr. Breadon voted, "No," and all other members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

3) ORDINANCE TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Mrs. Winterbauer, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance. All members present voted "Yes." The motion passed.

Mr. Girton stated that the majority of these appropriations would go towards the pool.

On a motion by Mrs. Winterbauer, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted "Yes." The motion passed.

4) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.15 OF THE NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED "PROHIBITED ANIMALS" TO MODIFY THE RULES REGARDING KEEPING CHICKENS.

On a motion by Mrs. Bowling, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance.

Mrs. Hoover noted that there was an increase from seven chickens to ten, and that roosters are still not allowed. She also noted a change in the permit and inspection process. Mrs. Bowling clarified that the inspection fee went up to a \$150 permit fee, and the permit will not expire so that the inspection will not be required annually. Mrs. Hoover noted that the Health Department still has the ability to inspect at any time. Mrs. Bowling noted that the \$150 would not apply to anyone with a permit acquired prior to April 1, 2024. Rather, there would be a final \$25 fee.

Mr. Girton asked what the \$150 would be for. Mrs. Hoover replied that it would be to cover the cost of the inspection; the previous fee of \$25 was causing the City to lose money.

Mr. Girton voted, "No," and all other members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

5) A RESOLUTION HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON WOMEN & GIRLS' PAY EQUITY COMMITMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion by Ms. Royse, seconded by Mrs. Bowling, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution.

Mrs. Hoover read a statement from Annalese Cahill, a member of the Hamilton County Women & Girls Committee. A copy of the commitment is on file in the Clerk of Council's office.

All members present voted "Yes." The motion passed.

On a motion by Mrs. Hoover, seconded by Mrs. Bowling, it was moved to pass the resolution. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

6) A RESOLUTION HONORING BRIGID KELLY

(this resolution was considered immediately following the amendment of the agenda)

On a motion by Mr. Girton, seconded by Mrs. Franzen, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the resolution with the first reading in its entirety. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mrs. Bowling, it was moved to pass the resolution. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

N) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

James Bonsall, Norwood Treasurer, stated that the Norwood Municipal Tax deadline is April 18, 2024. If anyone has issues, he stated that anyone can come into the Tax Department for assistance. He also stated that a mailer would be sent to residents as a reminder. Mr. Bonsall noted that the transition to Republic Bank is underway, and will result in a new address from which local water bills will be sent. Mrs. Hoover asked if residents should mail their payments in any earlier. Mr. Bonsall replied that residents should send payments in as soon as possible, but that the processing system will actually be more efficient and won’t require extra payment time. Mr. Bonsall brought up the matter of credit card fees that the City absorbs. To improve this, fees to the City are being reduced by having a flat 3.5% fee for credit card transactions, but no other fees. Recreation will be the one exception of this new rule.

O) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Hoover stated that the donation drive for Lydia’s House is ongoing. Donations can be brought to City Hall or the Recreation Center.

Ms. Royse corrected her statement from the previous meeting about 2021 being the first majority female council; there had been a majority female council in 1999.

P) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Girton requested to place the Financial Recovery Plan into Committee of the Whole.

Mrs. Hoover requested to place a community survey and Council procedures into Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Hoover thanked Councilwoman Franzen and others for work on applications for federal funding.

Mrs. Bowling requested to add new Councilmember orientation into Committee of the Whole.

President Geers reminded Council to send him their top three priorities for the next Committee of the Whole meeting, or more if need be.

Q) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Community Development—Mike Skelly

On a motion by Mrs. Franzen, seconded by Mrs. Hoover, it was moved to receive and file the communication as if read. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

2) Request for Executive Session—Noah Powers

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Girton, it was moved to receive and file the letter and enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee or official. All members present voted “Yes.” The motion passed.

Council entered executive session.

Council returned from executive session.

R) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

There were no absent members.

S) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Girton, it was moved to adjourn.

All members present voted, “Yes.” The motion passed.

Natalie Assaf.
Clerk of Council

Joseph S. Geers
President of Council