



Norwood City Council

Council Chambers | Norwood City Hall

4645 Montgomery Road | Norwood, Ohio 45212

October 14, 2025 | 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: Ms. Franzen, Ms. Hoover, Ms. Royse, Mr. Moore, Mr. Girton, and Mr. Breadon.

E) AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

There were a few items that were removed from the agenda, including L1, an ordinance regarding cryptocurrency. The revised version of this ordinance is the first ordinance in section M. M5 will be removed because it is a duplication of M3. Lastly, there was an addition to the Communications team, Q5 regarding the Maple and Montgomery Development for the senior 55 and up community.

On a motion made by Mr. Girton, seconded by Ms. Royse. It was moved to amend the agenda. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

F) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- September 23, 2025
- September 30, 2025

On a motion made by Mr. Girton, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to accept and file the minutes from the previous meeting as if read. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

G) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations.

H) PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

I) REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

1) Sonny James

Re: Community and Event

Bishop Sonny James, 4305 Ashland Avenue, addressed the council and residents regarding challenges, an event, and ensuring residents can still communicate through disagreements. Bishop James acknowledged recent sensitivities within the city and shared that he, too, has faced challenges. Bishop James shared information about an upcoming event he will be hosting on October 30, 2025. If residents were interested in attending, he requested they email him.

2) Mary C. Miller and Meredith Whitehead

Re: Norwood Together & New Executive Director

Mary C. Miller, 1845 Hopkins Avenue, addressed council and the residents regarding Norwood Together and introducing the new Executive Director of Meredith Whitehead. Mary provided information regarding Meredith's experience. Meredith thanked the council and mayor for providing a warm welcome to her. Meredith shared some projects she has already started to work on within her new role.

J) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1) Finance, Budget, Audit, and Claims Committee

Mr. Girton presented the committee report during this time, including the following: the Auditor's Office is working on the destruction of very old records according to the new records retention schedule; the Deputy Auditor was able to complete the Public Records Custodian Training; the city has transitioned to Paylocity as its new HR software system, the tax department reports that earnings tax revenue is up 5% compared to this time last year; and the committee plans to meet again on October 14 to discuss budget requests as part of the Financial Recovery Plan.

On a motion made by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to accept and file this report. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

2) Housing, Health, and Public Safety Committee

Ms. Royse presented the committee report regarding the PLK Robertson South Development during this time, including the following: three community members spoke during public comment expressing concerns about traffic, construction, and the need for an updated traffic study, another attendee spoke in favor of the development; a motion made by Ms. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Moore was made to enter executive session during this committee report, to discuss the pending litigation. Members of the committee concluded the meeting following the executive session.

On a motion made by Ms. Royse, seconded by Mr. Girton, it was moved to accept and file this report without objection. The motion passed.

K) THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no third readings of ordinances/resolutions.

L) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) RESOLUTION DECLARING THIS NECESSITY TO LEVY A RENEWAL TAX FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On a motion made by Ms. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Girton, it was moved to have the second reading of the resolution. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

Mr. Moore requested clarification regarding the "in excess of the 10-,ill limitation" language, he asked whether the ten-mills referenced were an aggregate limit across the city rather than applying to individual levies. Law Director, Mr. Moore explained that the city automatically receives ten-mills by default. To collect more than that amount, the city must place a levy on the ballot. This resolution renews an existing 8-mill operating levy that originated in the mid-1980s. Mr. Moore, the Law Director provided additional context, while the levy amount remains the same, collection values can change with new construction, though personal property tax is no longer included. The measure represents a renewal of the city's 5-year operating levy, historically renewed every five years since the 1980s.

2) RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, AND REPAIR OF STREETS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF NORWOOD, AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to have the second reading of this resolution. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

M) INTRODUCTORY READING OF ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 7, BUSINESS REGULATION CODE, OF THE NORWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 773, "CRYPTOCURRENCY ATM WARNING REQUIREMENT," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On a motion made by Ms. Royce, seconded by Ms. Royce, it was moved to suspend the rules and have all three readings of the ordinance.

Mr. Moore asked for clarification regarding duplication of agenda items. He questioned whether this was a revised version of an earlier proposal and what has changed. Ms. Royce explained that the only modification made was the addition of an emergency clause, which allows the ordinance to take effect immediately rather than the standard six-week publication period.

On a motion made by Ms. Hoover, seconded by Ms. Royce, it was moved to pass the ordinance. All members present voted, "Yes." Ms. Franzen, Ms. Hoover, Ms. Royce, Mr. Girton, and Mr. Breadon voted, "yes." The motion failed.

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Hoover, it was moved to have the first reading of this ordinance. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

2) ORDINANCE AMENDING 62-2024, WHICH SUPERSEDED ORDINANCE 51-2024, WHICH SUPERSEDED ORDINANCE 47-2024, WHICH AMENDED ORDINANCE 18-2009 IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE CITY OF NORWOOD, TO REVISE CERTAIN PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND REFLECT CHANGES IN STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

On a motion made by Ms. Hoover, seconded by Ms. Franzen, it was moved to refer the ordinance to the Economic Development Committee. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion carried.

Ms. Hoover explained this discussion relates to determining the number of residential units before a development is considered commercial. She recommended the Economic Development Committee take a detailed review and provide recommendations on what would be best for the community.

3) ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE CITY OF NORWOOD FIRE HYDRANT SPECIFICATION

On a motion made by Mr. Girton, seconded by Ms. Franzen, it was moved to have the first reading of the ordinance. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

Ms. Hoover asked the Fire Chief to explain the purpose of the ordinance. Chief McCabe stated this was a collaborative effort between the Fire Department and Public Works. The purpose of the ordinance is to establish by law standard fire hydrant specification ensuring that new developments install uniform hydrants. Chief McCabe emphasized the Safety-Service Director supported the codifying standard.

4) ORDINANCE TO CHANGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Girton, it was moved so suspend the rules and have all three readings. All members present voted, “yes.” The motion passed.

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Hoover, it was moved to pass the ordinance, seconded by Ms. Hoover. All members present voted, “yes.” The ordinance passed.

5) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OF OHIO SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA 250-OH)

On a motion made by Mr. Girton, seconded by Ms. Franzen, it was moved to have the first reading of this resolution. All members present voted, “yes.” The motion passed.

Mr. Girton asked for additional background information from Mr. Powers. Mr. Powers explained this was apart of the Hamilton County-led effort to coordinate local celebrations of the nations 250th anniversary in 2026. Mr. Powers emphasized that this resolution does not require any city funding and is encouraging the community’s participation.

N) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Schneider began by sharing updates regarding the major roadway improvement projects across Norwood. He highlighted visible progress on Montgomery Road. The Mayor stated that improving major thoroughfares has reduced congestion on residential streets, preserving neighborhood quiet and minimizing wear on smaller roads. The Mayor shared an update on the Elm Avenue Storm Drainage Project, reporting that the system is now fully functional and should prevent flooding in the affected areas. The drainage improvements are complete, final restoration work – including repaving, curbs, and sidewalks will continue into spring 2026, depending on the weather winter. Mayor Schneider expressed optimism in this project and residents having finally having a resolution to a 50-year flooding issue within the community. The Mayor praised the Recreation Team, including the Senior Center Leadership for the opportunities they are providing to the community. The Mayor has also received calls regarding redevelopment for Ward 4, and is excited to work with Norwood Together to help revitalize the area. Lastly, Mayor Schneider shared the many different ways in which Norwood is communication what is happening, via social media, specifically Facebook – City of Norwood, residents are able to sign up for a newsletter, council members, but has emphasized the use of Facebook. Mayor Schneider shared curbside leave collection begins on October 20. Norwood has added more speed safety signs.

James Bonsall, City Treasurer shared several updates regarding the Year-over-Year Tax Revenue updated comparing current-year revenues to the same period last year. The individual earnings tax increased 20% year-over-year, representing a \$256,000 gain. Net profit taxes rosed 23%, reflecting continued business stability despite volatility in prior years. Withholding taxes, the most table category at 68% of total collections, increased 2.3%. Overall total tax revenue is up 7% compared to last year. Mr. Bonsall stated that collections are well above projections, which anticipated roughly 2% growth. He noted this positive variance will provide flexibility for upcoming budget priorities and future financial recovery plan revisions. Mr. Bonsall provided a detailed analysis of the Rookwood Commons and Pavilion developments and their fiscal impact on the Norwood City School District. He clarified that early CRAs on Rookwood properties have since expired as of 2011 and those parcels now pay full property taxes. Mr. Bonsall provided clarity based off of statements claiming Rookwood was contributing only \$450,000 annually to the schools was incorrect. The original Rookwood development (south of Edmondson and Smith) generates approximately \$2.6-\$2.7 million annually for Norwood Schools. The newer Rookwood Exchange site, contributes approximately \$650,000 annually through a TIF agreement. Combined Rookwood Developments contribute \$3.3-\$3.4 million per year to the Norwood City School District, equating to roughly 20% of total school property tax revenue. Mr. Bonsall also shared Rookwood Exchange Parking Garage’s bond payments are guaranteed under the TIF structure. Lastly, Mr. Bonsall stressed the importance of using consistent and accurate data when discussing development impacts.

Ken Miracle, City Auditor shared several ongoing updates from the Auditor’s Office. Mr. Miracle shared the monthly reports, end-of-month financial reports were emailed to Council earlier that afternoon for review; a financial “primer” document was distributed to Council to assist with upcoming committee discussions. Input will be gathered at the October Meeting. Thirdly, for Monday.com, the Auditor’s team will hold their second implementation meeting with Monday.com representatives. The platform will enhance project tracking and communication among departments. Council members will receive email invitations to create viewing accounts on the system is active. Mr. Miracle shared the continuation of the Records Retention and Destruction updates, the city is moving along to have this completed. There will be new software updates. The Auditor’s team will have a partnership with Xavier University for the spring semester for a work study student. The student will assist with updates to the Auditor’s office website to improve usability and transparency. Lastly, the Auditor’s office has a new staff member, Eriana Standifer, the city’s new accounting specialist.

Keith Moore, Law Director did not have an administrative report to share at this time.

O) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Hoover provided an update on the community survey with additional responses continue to be collected. Ms. Hoover also shared updates on the environmental and recycling initiatives, noting that Reboot Recycling has installed an electronic waste collection station before the Norwood Board of Health.

P) NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Franzen shared information regarding the Gem of the Highlands 5K being held on Saturday, November 1. Volunteers are needed for both before and during the race to assist with logistics and to monitor intersections along the route. The 5K includes live music, free pizza, burgers, and beverages. Mr. Moore expressed appreciation to the organizers of the recent "Meet the Candidates" event held the previous Thursday.

Ms. Hoover announced that early voting is now underway at the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Ms. Hoover also shared homelessness initiatives that were specific to Norwood, including resources. Lastly Ms. Hoover shared Trick-or-Treat in Norwood will take place on Thursday, October 31 from 6pm-8pm. Council will pass a formal resolution in the next meeting.

Q) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Re: Gatherall LLC

On a motion made by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Ms. Franzen, it was moved to receive and file without objection. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

2) Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Re: La Gozadera, LLC/La Gozadera Latin Club

On a motion made by Mr. Girton, seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to receive and file without objection. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

3) Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Re: 369 Marathon LLC

On a motion made by Mr. Breadon, seconded by Ms. Hoover, it was moved to receive and file with objection, requesting a hearing in the Hamilton County Seat. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

The Tax Department and Fire Department initially filed objections. The Fire Department has since withdrawn its objection, confirming the business is now in full code compliance, has paid permit fees and corrected all fire code violations. Mr. Bonsall stated that the Tax Departments objection remains due to missing filings, though no outstanding balance is currently recorded.

4) Mayor Victor Schneider – September Mayor's Court Fines

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Breadon, it was moved to receive and file the letter as if read. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

5) Montgomery and Maple Affordable Housing Development

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Hoover it was moved to receive and file the letter without objection. All members present voted, "yes." The motion passed.

R) EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

On a motion made by Ms. Franzen seconded by Ms. Royse, it was moved to excuse absent members (Ms. Bowling). All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.

S) ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Hoover seconded by Ms. Royse. It was moved to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted, "Yes." The motion passed.


Kelsi Goins
Clerk of Council


Joseph S. Geers
President of Council