

Approved 2-1-2021

NORTH COLLEGE HILL CITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Virtual NCH Council Meeting, January 19 2021, 7:00 pm

Persons wishing to address Council prior to its dealing with current legislation may do so by registering with the Clerk of Council. Please provide to the Clerk, your name, address and the issue you wish to discuss.

Prayer

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bailey	Present	Ms. Blythe	Present	Ms. Underwood	Present	Mr. Miller Novak	Present	
Ms. Zorb	Present	Ms. Hartman	Present	Ms. Anderson	Present	All present		

AGENDA: Ms. Zorb moves to adopt the agenda. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 7-0 to adopt.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bailey moves to adopt the 01-04-2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion to adopt passes 7-0.

Communications: NCH PD December Monthly report, NCH PD Yearly End report, Summary of the NCH Fire Task report, Ohio Ethics Commission Notification of filing requirements for elected officials. Discussion in regards to the filing of ethics commission. All Council members should have received theirs by now electronically. The deadline to file for all candidates is Monday, May 17, 2021.

Committee Reports:

Budget and Finance: Ms. Bailey reports. Committee met on Monday, January 11. Discussed briefly on the levy, Legislation for OWPC, Road Salt, Home Buyers Assistance program. Actually, most of the legislation on today's agenda. Just trying to stay ahead of the curve. Next meeting will be the 2nd Monday, February 8 at 7:30 pm.

City Community and Development & Recreation: Ms. Bailey reports. Committee met on Monday, January 11 at 6:30 pm. Discussed an RFP for a Comprehensive plan and will have it out to council by the next meeting. Talked about potentially creating a plan for a park levy. Also welcomed Ms. Anderson as the Vice Chair to City Community and Development & Recreation Committee. Next meeting Monday, February 8 at 6:30 pm.

Public Safety: Committee has not met since December 28. Next meeting Monday, January 25, 7:30 pm.

Rules & Public Policy: Not met since their last meeting on December 28. Next meeting is January 25 at 6:30 pm.

Ad Hoc reports: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor's report: Ms. Nichols not present and has given Mr. Mosby a statement and defer her time to Fire Chief Fels. Mr. Mosby reports for Mayor. She would like to thank all those who served on the task force into developing a recommendation for our Fire Department. Thanking Former Mayor Mason, President of Council Mike Graver, Councilmember Arica Underwood, Laureen Zapf, Kyle Scales, Kenny Crawford, Joe Plat, Chief Brian Fels and Finance manager Ari Hall for all of their efforts in developing a recommendation to stabilize, maintain and address the needs of our Fire Department. **Chief Fels Reports:** Gave a brief history of the departments first time ever levy of 3.2 mil in 2017. At that time, they had the same issues they are struggling with today. Further, that not only are there no available funds to address the issue, but the funding necessary to maintain current operations is becoming increasingly at risk. Surrounding communities find themselves in similar circumstances with increasing emergency medical and fire service demands taxing resources and limiting their ability to provide service outside of their jurisdictions. Mt Healthy recently sought and obtained voter approval of a 12.5 mill levy adding to their existing 5 mil permanent Fire levy (Total 17.5). Both Colerain and Springfield Township Fire Departments are following suit this November with Colerain seeking an additional 3.0 mil to their existing 12.5 mil and Springfield adding 2.5 to their existing 8.5 mil. With that being said, we made the most of the 3.2 mil levy and hired 3 fulltime personal. Maintained our paramedic service and addressed a couple of our capital needs including vehicles and building needs. With that being said Mt. Healthy passed their 17.5 mil permanent levy and are on their way to addressing their problems. Many of those problems are still plaguing us. Most notably the inability of our current model of 4 people on duty and most of them part time staffing, to meet the increasing service demands of the community.

Chief Fels report cont.

So, the Mayor's Task force came up with long term sustainable solutions, to ensure our continued delivery of service, despite the projected short falls in the general revenue and to ultimately educate the community on the scope of these issues and gain support from their recommendations. Those recommendations from the Task Force Committee were as low as 8 -10 mil and as high as 17 mil.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Based on a 5-year 12 mil levy generating approximately \$1,330,000. 00 annually. With this level of funding the following can be achieved:
- Increase daily staffing from 4-5 per day (3 full-time/2 part time). This will provide a more dependable base of personal, less apt to call off and be subject to scheduling conflicts or be recalled by other employees elsewhere.
- It also helps to more aptly cover a 2-paramedic ambulance and the increasing number of overlapping calls they have received. This year approximately 2700 calls received, about 125% increase since 2002 when the 4-part time staffing per day was adopted. This also helps reduce reliance on mutual aid which is also a big contention with our neighbors.
- Our compensation, we well below the average of both fulltime and part time. The last 3 years there has been no increase in pay for the department. Mt. Healthy's Fire Dept. starting salary is going to be 15% more than our top out salary. Salaries need to be more competitive to encourage increase staffing.
- There are capital needs living in a building that is nearly 100 years old. With the first levy some of the HVAC units, windows, address garage door needs and replaced a 2002 ambulance. Plenty other issues that need addressing, electrical systems, plumbing all needs to be replaced. 19914 back up Fire engines needs to be replaced.
- Reduce fire departments general fund need by approximately \$100K annually.

Discussion: Ms. Zorb asked with the covid potentially causing issues, if the fire fighters are required to wear a mask at all times? Yes, they do. They are supposed to wear mask on every run and every time they are in the public. Ms. Blythe asked if 8 or 9 mil could be considered. Chief Fels responded, many different mils were discussed from 8 mil to 17 mil. 12 mil was the compromise. Based primarily on the staffing needs. The difference between 10 and 12 mils is the difference between a full-time person per day. With increased volume of calls it's very hard to maintain consistency with a part time staffing model. Ms. Anderson asked how to get the people behind the 12 mil. Chief Fels said this time we have a plan to market this. Ms. Bailey, concerned about the burden on tax payers especially senior citizens. Ms. Underwood has invited Chief Fels to her Public Safety committee meeting to present a more detail breakdown for the levy. Ms. Blythe asks if Chief Fels can have breakdown of an 8 or 9 mil levy at that committee meeting. He will have presentation available.

Mr. Mosby yields to Mr. Miller-Novak as requested by the Mayor. The Mayor, Ms. Underwood and Himself are working on how to improve the community, whether it be business development or community improvements to improve the community for the citizens. Different branches of the government are fragmented. That is Chamber of Commerce, C.I.C. and the School board. The effort is to make a unified committee, spearheaded by the Mayor, having one member from each organization, himself and Ms. Underwood and try to include 1 or 2 people from the community. Pull resources and set goals and achieve some common goals, he will keep everyone posted.

City Administrator report:

- He is excited to announce that NCH PD has received a police cruiser from the City of West Chester. Recognizing the benefit of a working relationship with smaller municipalities like ours.
- A Ceremony was held for the E-V charging stations and discovered that we have the only one in a 5-mile radius. Very excited to be ahead of the curve on this and it is a part of our transportation vision working hand in hand with the transit center that they are diligently working on. Positive feedback and happy to see that former council member Jim O'Shea came out for the event.
- Inspired by Mr. Miller-Novak's comments at the last council meeting. Grateful for his vision and would like to work with him on the things he has pointed out. Having a common goal and beginning to change North College Hill.
- Thanks to Ms. Hartman for her words that resonated with him and impacted him greatly.

City Administrator report: CONT.

- Express appreciation for working with Pres. Graver and Ms. Dewald and to be able to work out problems together, gives a sense of community and is very grateful for that.
- We have a very ambitious list of objectives, 2 levies, one coming up in May the other in November. He senses great optimism and certainly gets that same optimism from the Mayor and also from council and glad to be a part of this team.

Law Director Report: Not able to attend. He is at another meeting, Per. Mr. Mosby.

Finance Director Report: No report at this time. There were no questions for the Finance Director.

Call of Members:

Ms. Bailey: Remarks about gunshots being fired in her neighborhood, a neighbor fired gunshots into his own home, witnessed by herself and another neighbor. The non-emergency police number was called and no one responded and is wondering if 911 should have been called and hoped this doesn't happen often.

Ms. Blythe: Referred to her letter to council on January 7, regarding the fire levy and had already expressed them.

Ms. Underwood: Speaks about tone policing. It is a personal attack based on criticizing a person who expresses any kind of emotion or passion when they are arguing for a specific point. It often detracts the validity from any statement or argument because you are attacking the tone in which it was presented and not the message. It often so effective because it renders a prickly legitimate argument or complaint and makes it seem irrational, especially when the person who attempting to police some else's tone maintains a sense of calm. Tone policing is also an oppression tactic. It is systematically used to keep oppressed people and their issues ??????. (not understood) It resonates with her and black women are no strangers to this specific tactic. It is where the stereotype, "angry black women" comes from. She wants to let her colleagues know that she is unapologetically a black woman and sometimes you are going to hear passion in her voice. It doesn't make her an angry black woman; it doesn't mean that what she has to say is any less valid. She is going to raise her voice and be frustrated from time to time, but that doesn't make what she has to say any less valid. She will give her colleague the benefit of the doubt this time, because she was referred to as hostile a week ago and that is offensive. She is not going to police her tone and not allow anyone else to police her tone. This is her effort to explain why tone policing is offensive. She knows it happens to a lot of women, but especially black women. She is trying to educate not trying to attack. She thanks everyone to allow her to get on soap box and every one please, stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Mill-Novak: Thanks to Ms. Underwood for identifying the phrase Tone policing. Thanks, Mr. Mosby, for the kind words and excited about the charging station also. Recognizes Martin Luther King Day with what's going on in the nation. It's also important to discuss issues relating to diversity. Proud to be from a diverse city and how well we relate to one another.

Ms. Zorb: Is super excited to hear about the new committee and the ideas they will be coming up with.

Ms. Hartman: Has nothing at this time.

Ms. Anderson: Happy Birthday to Ms. Bailey. Sad to hear the non-emergency did not work for Ms. Bailey. Ms. Anderson has called non-emergency when she worked at Skyline and they were really responsive. Thanks, Ms. Underwood, for her comments on tone policing. She has always known it as gaslighting. And it's a form of gaslighting. In her education world they talk about this a lot. You just never want to listen to their tone but what they mean. Thanks Mr. Mosby about the charging stations and transit center. MLK day was yesterday and she reflected on communications how honest and open communication is especially in government and hopes in this new year we can continue on with open communication. Thank to Ms. Zorb for being so helpful and communicative with her. As well as Mr. Mosby being open and communicative. Hope that we can all keep that open and honest communication with each other.

Legislation:

First Reading: Resolution 04-2021 A resolution authorizing city of North College Hill to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation improvement program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

First Reading: Resolution 05-2021, A resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt contracts awarded in 2021 and declaring an emergency.

Legislation cont.:

First Reading: Ordinance 01-2021, An ordinance to establish a North College Hill Home Buyers Assistance Fund titled The Down Payment Assistance Fund Numbered 206.

Second Reading: Resolution 01-2021, Authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement and execute a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for various pedestrian improvements in North College Hill and declaring an emergency. Ms. Zorb moves to suspend 3rd reading. Ms. Bailey 2nd. Motion passes 7-0. Ms. Zorb moves to adopt, Ms. Bailey 2nd. Motion passes to adopt 7-0.

Second Reading: Resolution 02-2021, Resolution determining to proceed to levy a renewal of additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation. Ms. Bailey moves to suspend 3rd reading, reminding everyone this is the street levy renewal. Mr. Miller-Novak 2nd. Motion passes 7-0. Ms. Bailey moves to adopt, Ms. Zorb 2nd. Motion passes. 7-0.

Third Reading: Ordinance 17-2020, An ordinance to establish salaries and staffing levels for city employees pursuant to the requirements of section 3.06 of the City of North College Hill. Ms. Zorb moves to amend changing the Law Directors salary range of \$54,000. -\$60,000 and change it to the original salary of \$33,619. **Discussion.** Confirming the accurate last change of \$30,000. To \$50,000. Mr. Miller-Novak explains the importance of have a hands-on Law director at the meetings if we are will to pay for. He hears council members complain that Mr. Deters is not at the meetings, but we are not paying him to be here. He agrees there are frustrations of not having him at the meetings but does not understand the frustration of him not being at a meeting if we are not willing to pay for it and he will be voting against the motion because he believes we do need an attorney present at council meetings. Ms. Anderson clarifies the salary range of \$30,00 to \$50,00. Ms. Underwood remarks we recently had an issue. A piece of legislation didn't make it to the agenda because our Law Director didn't review it. We are potentially going to lose \$150,000. From our budget because of a mistake that was mad, an honest mistake. Because had he reviewed that document then perhaps that mistake wouldn't have been made and we wouldn't be facing this issue of a huge deficit from our general fund. We defiantly need his guidance in that. Ms. Bailey clarifies. Mr. Miller-Novak if we make the change to \$33,619. Can we then enter into the new fee agreement with him? Mr. Miller-Novak, No. What Ms. Zorb is motioning is to keep him at his current service and his current pay. If you want to enter in to the new fee agreement then you should vote no on this motion. Ms. Bailey clarifies that this piece of legislation mentioned that she did not write it and it came from the law director in 2018. The only thing she changed was the fee from \$50.00 to \$150.00 and the year. Ms. Anderson asks what was the original number he gave for his suggested salary. Mr. Miller-Novak said he gave us 2 figures \$54,000 and \$60,000. Depending on what was outlined for him. Pres. Graver reminds council there is a motion on the floor to amend. Ms. Bailey 2nd. Ms. Zorb would like to reiterate what Ms. Bailey said and tag on to what Ms. Underwood said and points out that Ms. Underwood said documents should be written by the Law Director and according to Ms. Bailey it was written by the Law Director, not to mention other mistakes that have been seen from him. Ms. Zorb states there is no accountability in this employee agreement. Ms. Anderson asks of Ms. Hall if we know for a fact the Law director wrote this legislation and was it his specific mistake that would cause the city to lose this amount of money. Mr. Mosby responds; the legislation had been discussed and changed and was not sent back to Mr. Deters prior to its passage. Pres. Graver reminds there is a motion on the floor to amend Ord-17-2020, the Law Director salary of \$30,000. To \$50,000 back to \$33,619.00. Motion made by Ms. Zorb and 2nd by Ms. Bailey. Motion passes 4-3. Ms. Bailey moves to adopt Ord. 17-2020. Ms. Zorb 2nd. Motion to adopt passes 4-3.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Anderson reminds council that she has agreed to be vice chair of City Community and Development and Recreation and asks that it be brought to a motion. Ms. Bailey moves to have Ms. Anderson as Vice Chair of said committee. Ms. Zorb 2nd. Motion passes 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS: 2021-06 Res. A Resolution declaring the necessity of levying a replacement tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting the county auditor to certify matters in connection therewith. Pres. Graver explains that this is in regards to the proposed fire levy that has been discussed tonight. He is sending it to the Public Safety committee for review. Ms. Bailey suggests it go to Committee of the Whole. This is something all members of council should be discussing. Pres. Graver reminds council that they can all be at the committee meeting. Ms. Zorb strongly encourages those who are not on the Safety committee to attend so they all get the same information. Pres. Graver reminds council that Chief Fels will be there with a presentation. Asks for other new business.

- Ms. Bailey asks for a Special Council meeting to rectify legislation that is incorrect as letters have already been sent out to various property owners and it did not make the agenda tonight. Ms. Zorb asks if either Ms. Dewald or Pres. Graver has received an updated copy of the document. She thought we were waiting on the law director for that. Mr. Mosby responds that no, they have not received it yet. It has not come back from the Law Director yet. Ms. Bailey asks if he knows when it might be back to council. Mr. Mosby had a conversation with Mr. Deters this evening and expects it to be no later than Thursday. Ms. Bailey asks if it can be done in between committed meeting on Monday January 25. Mr. Miller-Novak asks Ms. Underwood to just do a 45-minute Rules and Public Policy meeting, have a special Meeting at 7:15 pm and then proceed to Public Safety and levy discussion. Ms. Underwood agrees to give up some of her time. Mr. Miller-Novak lays out a time line, Rules and Public Policy 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm, Special Council Meeting 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm and Public Safety at 8:30 pm with Chief Fels. Pres. Graver asks if all can make the 7:15 pm meeting. No dissenters to that time and he confirms a Special Council Meeting, Monday, January 25 at 7:15 pm. Ms. Dewald reminds council that the Council Rules state a notice must be placed at the residence of council members and Mr. Miler-Novak has stated in previous meetings that to change council rules it's just a matter of a motion and a vote and asks Mr. Miller-Novak for clarification. He responds a council member can waive the notice to be placed on their door. All Council members agreed an email is fine.

- Pres. Graver asks about meeting links for the Special meeting on Monday, January 25.. Ms. Zorb will clarify via email.

- Ms. Underwood asks about the limited copy use. Ms. Dewald explains that the high numbers of copies have stopped. Mr. Mosby said there were copies that had been made prior to the delivery of the copier.

- Mr. Mosby thanks Ms. Blythe for her suggestion on keeping council informed. He would give a quick rundown of what our personal status is.

NEW BUSINESS CONT.

The personal status for now is as follows: Per Mr. Mosby

Public Works, 1 supervisor, 3 full time

Finance Department, 1 manager, 2 part time

Police Dept., 1 Police Chief, 15 Full time and 5 part time police officers. 1 fulltime and 3 part time clerks,
1 mayor's court clerk.

Fire Department, 1 Fire Chief, 3 full time firefighters, 28 part-time firefighters.

Administrative, 1 City manager (him) and a full time assistant.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Zorb moved to adjourn. Ms. Anderson 2nd. No discussion. Motion passes 7-0.


Mary Dewald, Clerk of Council


Mike Graver, President of Council