

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Dennis Fiorelli called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray,

Minutes of Meetings June 10, 2019; Jun 24, 2019; July 1, 2019 (Special Meeting)**Amend June 10, 2019 Minutes**

Action: Amend, **Moved by** Council President Dennis Fiorelli, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 6, No = 0, Abstain = 1).

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

The minutes have been amended.

June 10, 2019 Minutes

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Councilman Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 6, No = 0, Abstain = 1).

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

The minutes have been approved.

June 24, 2019 Minutes

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

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4, No = 0, Abstain = 3).

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Abstain: Councilman Joe Frank, Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

The minutes have been approved.

July 1, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Abstain: Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

The minutes have been approved.

Swearing-In Ceremony: Mayor Welo swore-in Justin Tisdale as the new Councilman at Large.

Motion to Appoint Council President Pro Tem

- Council President Fiorelli asked if there are any motions to appoint a Council President Pro Tem for the term ending December 31, 2019.
- Councilman Joe Frank nominated Councilman Marty Gelfand.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that if he is elected he hopes to do a good job of presiding over the body if needed and providing leadership on all of the different legislation and follow in the footsteps of previous president pro tems including Mr. Fiorelli, Councilwoman Goodman and former Councilman Miller.

- Council President Fiorelli asked if there were any other nominations.
- Councilwoman Goodman nominated Councilwoman Gray.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that for the past 14 years she has served on council in South Euclid as well as a cabinet member for another city and that council needs leadership and the President Pro Tem acts as the 2nd to the Council President. Ms. Gray stated that leadership is an important role to make sure that the legislative and administrative branches work together to take us to the next level and make our city great.
- Councilwoman Goodman stated that over the years the positions of president and president pro tem were shared by all council members, and it wasn't until Dr. Miller that the same person held the gavel for an extended period of time and that it is good practice to go back to sharing the seat.
- Councilman Frank stated that whoever they vote for holds the position for six months and then council will need to choose a new president and pro-tem next year.
- Councilwoman Continenza asked Councilwoman Gray what her biggest passions are for Council and Councilwoman Gray responded that Council must go back to strategic planning and identifying priorities, provide economic and fiscal strength and invest in parks and recreation.
- Councilman Tisdale asked how the position would help him become a better councilperson moving forward. Councilwoman Gray stated that she loves this city and being on council is all about service to the community and you have to have a passion and know the voice of the people.
- Councilman Gelfand stated that he is sitting next to Councilman Tisdale and will help guide him as he learns the process.

Council President Fiorelli requested a roll call on the nomination of Councilman Marty Gelfand for the position of President Pro Tem.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4, No = 3, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

No: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

Council President Fiorelli requested a roll call on the nomination of Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

No: Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand.

- Upon research by Law Director Lograsso it was determined that if a majority is reached on the first nomination it carries, and a vote on the second motion should not have taken place, so according to Roberts Rules of Order, Councilman Gelfand has been appointed President Pro Tem for the term expiring December 31, 2019.

Report of Mayor & Department Heads

- Mayor Welo reported that all directors are present with the exception of Service Director Anderson.
- City Engineer Blackley reported on 2019 road projects and the issues with flooding on Shirley caused by an issue with the contractor. The contractor met with the residents that experienced flooding and that insurance claims would be filed. Mr. Blackley stated that he feels sorry for the residents that experienced the flooding and that it is extremely unfortunate and that the contractor has promised that they will make it right.
- Police Chief Nietert stated that the City has been working for some time with the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District to identify a school resource officer for Memorial and Greenview Schools and that South Euclid Officer Joe DiLillo will begin this fall.
- Mayor Welo discussed upcoming events and thanked One South Euclid for their vision and work for the future of Mayfield and Green. Mayor Welo recognized residents Dennis Silsby and Susan Hardy in the audience, who are both candidates for City Council and that she looks forward to them being more involved in the community.

Report of Law Director – no report.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items - no report.

Report of Committees

Committee of the Whole

Council President Fiorelli reported that the committee met again to discuss the Safety Levy legislation to be placed for renewal on the November ballot.

Introduced by Fiorelli

Resolution 23-19

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF RENEWING AN EXISTING LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL PROVISION OF POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER SAFETY SERVICES IN THE CITY TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY INCIDENTALS AND APPURTANANCES THERETO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.19, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

THIRD READING.

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Councilman Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

- Councilman Gelfand stated that the city needs the levy to keep our safety forces intact and that while it doesn't add officer, it maintains what we have.
- Councilwoman Goodman stated that while she supports the safety levy, she is voting no on this legislation because, as she explained in the committee meeting, she believes that the levy should be a replacement levy to generate additional dollars for safety and that she has confidence in the residents that they would understand and not mind paying a little bit more.
- Council President Fiorelli stated that he fully supports passage and that this is just the first step as a lot of education needs to be done about the levy.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 6, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

No: Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

The legislation has been approved.

Safety Committee

Councilman Gelfand reported that the Safety Committee met to discuss Ordinance 12-19 regarding party centers and that many changes are being made to the legislation and another committee meeting will be scheduled to continue discussions.

Legislation Requested by the Planning Commission

Introduced by Fiorelli

Ordinance 13-19

ORDINANCE

CREATING NEW CHAPTER 1336 "REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VACANT NONRESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS" OF TITLE FIVE "OTHER BUILDING PROVISIONS" OF PART THIRTEED "BUILDING CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO. FIRST READING.

The legislation was placed on first reading and referred to the Zoning and Planning Committee.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Dennis Silsby, 4428 Greenway, addressed the challenges of the city and council needing to work together and be accountable along with increasing communication with residents.
- Vera Bretz, 4505 Shirley Drive, spoke on behalf of some of the residents of Shirley Drive that experienced flooding and loss and damage of property as a result of flooding that occurred during the road reconstruction. Ms. Bretz stated that she appreciates all of the support Mayor Welo has provided and that she loves the community. Mayor Welo stated that the contractor, Trax Construction, has promised to make the issue right, and if they don't the city will step in to make

sure residents are cared for. Engineer Blackley stated that Cleveland Water has installed a temporary water main and it needs to pass a chlorination test prior to construction commencing again and might be another week. Mayor Welo thanked the residents for their patience and will reach out to them as soon as they know more information.

- Additional residents representing 4018 Shirley Drive and 4482 Shirley Drive also addressed council with Ms. Bretz regarding issues with the contractor and their insurance. Engineer Blackley stated that the residents have an advocate working on behalf of the city on the street during construction, and they should not hesitate to talk to Tony Poelking if there are any issues.
- Laurie Larkin, 4545 Shirley Drive, also addressed the issues on Shirley Drive and stated that her car was totaled as a result of the flooding issue and that she is willing to trust that the contractor and the insurance company will be responsible and do their job and meet timelines.
- Ben & Terese Gunter, 4100 Princeton Blvd., thanked the Mayor and City Council for their service to the community and asked if the RITA tax credit had been reduced.
- Charles Turner, 4549 Lilac Road, stated that author JK Rowling is the single most prolific writer of fiction and that the South Euclid Court took the rare action of taking the city to court for stealing the court's money and that the city has chosen to become a fiction writer and that Mr. Frank made a statement of admission to stealing money accidentally. Mr. Turner stated that the Police Chief drives a \$45,000 police vehicle to and from Aurora every day because he's afraid to live in South Euclid and that the Mayor had him removed from Rock the Block and filed a false police report at the community center.
- Susan Hardy, 1092 Plainfield Road, stated that she is disappointed in the condition of some of the park properties where there are weeds growing and moss is a problem. Ms. Hardy discussed issues at Oakwood Park and the sand volleyball courts and the need to set traps to catch some of the animals in our playgrounds. Ms. Hardy also addressed the need to teach kids responsibility.
- Councilwoman Goodman responded that the city passed legislation last year to become a pesticide free community, so we must live with some weeds as a result of improved health. Mayor Welo stated that new playground equipment has been ordered to replace some of the damaged playground equipment at the Playground of Possibilities and that the company experienced a fire, which is the reason for the delay of receipt and installation of the replacement playground equipment.

Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Continenza reported that the July Bexley Bash is on Tuesday and that the committee is always looking for residents to get involved and be a part of the planning. Ms. Continenza reported on opportunities to pursue more activities for teens in the parks.
- Councilman Frank reported that on behalf of the mayor he attended the retirement of longtime allergist Dr. Sher. Mr. Frank scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for September 9th at 7 pm regarding the wage enforcement legislation.
- Councilwoman Goodman reported on a report on NPR on why it has been so difficult for cities to merge services and that Indianapolis is a model for Northeast Ohio and that Mayor Welo has been involved in looking at ways cities can regionalize services. Ms. Goodman addressed the issue of weeds in the Oakwood Nature Preserve and that last year City Council passed a prohibition on spraying on public property. Councilwoman Goodman reported that she attended the National League of Cities meeting in Indianapolis and spoke to many counterparts in similar cities that are experiencing the same issues we are facing.
- Councilwoman Gray congratulated Councilman Gelfand on being elected President Pro Tem and stated that in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm the adage that "if you don't get a seat at the table, bring a chair". Ms. Gray stated that she loves South Euclid and will continue to be a leader and will continue to advocate and bring her chair. Ms. Gray requested that resident Susan Hardy be appointed to the Citizens Recreation Committee.
- Councilman Gelfand thanked his colleagues for electing him President Pro Tem. Mr. Gelfand scheduled a Safety Committee meeting for 6:30 pm on September

9th. Mr. Gelfand discussed several events including Bexley Bash and the Mercury Theatre Company production of Mary Poppins.

- Councilman Tisdale thanked Mayor, Council and residents for their support and that he looks forward to representing South Euclid and moving the city forward with growth and prosperity.
- Council President Fiorelli scheduled a Zoning and Planning Committee Meeting for July 22nd at 6 pm regarding Ordinance 13-19. Mr. Fiorelli addressed changes to recycling.

Adjourn

Action: Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilman Jason Tisdale, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continzena.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continzena, Councilman Joe Frank, Council President Dennis Fiorelli, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council