

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, Councilwoman Chanell Elston, Council President Joe Frank, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

Special Presentation #1 Firefighter of the Year

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 13-21

RESOLUTION

In appreciation to and recognition of Firefighter Jacob McKenrick for his outstanding service to the South Euclid Fire Department and the residents of South Euclid and having been nominated and elected Firefighter of the Year for 2020. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Gray, **Seconded by** Council President Frank.

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

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

Special Presentation #2 Police Exceptional Service Award

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 14-21

RESOLUTION

In appreciation to and recognition of Lieutenant James Wilson for his outstanding service to the South Euclid Police Department and the residents of the City of South Euclid and having been nominated for the Exceptional Service Award 2020. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Council President Frank.

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

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

Special Presentation #3 Dee O'Connor Civilian Police Employee Award

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 15-21

RESOLUTION

In appreciation to and recognition of Senior Records Clerk Cherie Baldyga for her outstanding service to the South Euclid Police Department and the residents of the City of South Euclid and having been nominated and elected for the Dee O'Connor Civilian Employee Award 2020. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Hardy.

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

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

Special Presentation #4 Police Department Promotions & Oaths of Office

- Michael Fink, Sergeant
- Robert Abele, Assistant Chief
- Joe Mays, Chief

Special Presentation #5 Recognition of Retiring Police Chief Kevin Nietert

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 16-21

RESOLUTION

In appreciation to and recognition of Chief Kevin T. Nietert for his outstanding service to the South Euclid Police Department and the residents of the City of South Euclid. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Goodman.

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

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

Frank: Thank you former Chief Nietert. Mays presented a plaque as small token of appreciation.

Chief Nietert stated that almost 35 years ago he was sworn-in as a patrolman and that he has had a wonderful experience working for South Euclid and thanked all of the Mayors and Chiefs he has had the opportunity to serve. Chief Neitert also thanked members of the current police department, especially assistant Lisa Gross and all of the employees and department heads and stated that it has been a pleasure serving South Euclid and that change brings about new beginnings.

Report of Mayor

- Poet Laureate Doc Janning recited two poems.
- Economic Development Director Love gave an update on the progress of the Leopardo Energy project.
- Community Services Director Benjamin gave an update on the Victory Park project and that requests for qualifications would be advertising in the coming weeks.
- Service Director Anderson requested support for Resolution 17-21 for ODOT Bulk Road Sal for the 2021-2022 winter season and reported that the Vax Truck purchased last year has been delivered and the city will receive a reimbursement of \$428,000.
- City Engineer Blackley gave an update on the 2021 road program which is scheduled to begin the first week in April and that two streets have been added as a result of better than expected bid prices: Queen Ann Court and Adrian Road west of Belvoir. Mr. Blackley reported that the Oakmount Road infrastructure project will be beginning next week and that bids for the South Green Road Project with Cuyahoga County came in lower than anticipated. Mr., Blackley stated that Director Benjamin is working on communication with residents on the project.
- Council President Frank sent condolences to webmaster Mark Geyman whose mom passed away.

Report of Law Director expressed his congratulations to the police officers recognized and promoted tonight and stated that Chief Nietert rode with him when he was a rookie police officer. Mr. Lograsso stated that he worked very closely with Chief Neitert during his period as Chief and that under his leadership all officers exemplified the highest standards.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items

No members of the public made comments.

Report of Committees

Committee of the Whole

Council President Frank reported that the committee met to discuss the intake and expenditures of tax dollars, however, because it is early in the year, we can't read much into where we are long-term, but are on track with the estimated revenues and expenditures.

Mayor Welo thanked City Council for their support over the last unprecedented year and thanked Councilwoman Gray for leading the regional charge to set up Covid-19 vaccination opportunities throughout northeast Ohio and Councilwoman Elston for working with Community Center Director Martines to set up the program here in South Euclid. Mayor Welo reported that she rode with two senior citizens to show them how to take RTA down to the vaccination site at the Wolstein Center. Mayor Welo thanked Police Chief Neitert for all of his service, discussed the virtual Brush High School fashion show and reported that the playgrounds and dog park are now open. Ms. Welo stated that it has been an emotional week for all of us and through the change we have to continue to give good public service.

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 17-21

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Participation Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to provide 4,500 Tons of Sodium Chloride (Bulk Rock Salt) to the City of South Euclid, per Ohio Revised Code Section 5513.01 (B); for the 2021-2022 Winter Season. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Goodman, **Seconded by** Council President Frank.

Frank has commended Jim Anderson.

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

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

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Doc Janning stated that he was at Green and Mayfield today and saw the mural painted over and wanted to know what happened. Director Benjamin responded that there is a new owner of the building that didn't understand the significance of the mural or the city codes and that we hope he will be agreeable to letting the city restore the mural.

Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Hardy congratulated all of the police officers on their honors and promotions and thanked Police Chief Nietert for his attentiveness and that Chief Mays has big shoes to fill. Ms. Hardy wished Chief Neitert well in his retirement.
- Councilwoman Continenza congratulated all officers honored and stated that Chief Nietert will be missed. Ms. Continenza reported on the composting bins at Bexley Park and invited residents to take advantage of the program with Rust Belt Riders and also discussed the pump track initiative and needing youth input.
- Councilwoman Elston reported on the South Euclid Covid-19 Vaccination Program and that there are still 140 appointment slots remaining of the those given to South Euclid and to call the community center to schedule an appointment.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that tonight is a both a joyous and sad night with the retirement of Chief Neitert and that both she and Councilwoman Goodman have been on City Council for 16 years and Kevin has been Chief for 14 of those years. Ms. Gray stated that the Chief Nietert has been an integral part of our community and that she is absolutely confident that Chief Mays will be just as good. Councilwoman Gray stated to Chief Mays that he shouldn't try to fill Nietert's shoes, but instead put his own footprint in the sand. Councilwoman Gray also thanked Councilwoman Elston, Mayor Welo and Meg Martines for helping to make sure that people who want and need Covid-19 vaccines, have the opportunity to get them, and that many people with co-morbidity issues have had barriers to getting the vaccine and that as elected officials it's our responsibility to remove those barriers and leverage available resources.
- Councilman Tisdale thanked Councilwoman Gray for her leadership with the regional vaccination process in Northeast Ohio and said that if it was not for Ms. Gray, it would not have gotten done and that it is a big deal. Mr. Tisdale thanked Chief Neitert and wished him good luck.
- Councilwoman Goodman echoed all the congratulations for the police and Chief Neitert and stated that he has had the patience of a saint, but also was a great leader and stood by his people. Ms. Goodman stated that Chief Nietert has been proactive in diversifying the force and applaud him for those efforts and she knows Chief Mays will also be proactive. Councilwoman Goodman thanked Councilwomen Gray and Elston for their efforts with the Covid-19 vaccination and reported that a Service Committee Meeting was held last Monday to discuss the City Sweep Community Day on May 8th and more information will be forthcoming. Ms. Goodman reported that the reimbursement for the Service Department Vax Truck comes from the Community Cost Share funds that residents pay to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.
- Council President Frank congratulated all of our officers, firefighters and civilians that were honored tonight and wished Chief Nietert well in his retirement. Mr. Frank stated that Mayor Welo has been working on the succession plan for some time to ensure a smooth transition.

- Mayor Welo thanked the Civil Service Commission members Mark Zamiska, Diana Brown and Jim Valentine who have spent so much time testing applicants and making sure that the promotions process was open and transparent.
- Council President Frank read a letter from a resident regarding the need for additional deer culling and Mr. Frank stated that the City is working on additional creative solutions including a deer contraceptive program.

Adjourn

With no further business before City Council, **Action:** Motion to Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Frank, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Continenza.

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

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

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Attest:

Council President

Clerk of Council