

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Ruth Gray called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Special Recognition

Introduced by Gray

Resolution 06-22

RESOLUTION

In appreciation to and recognition of Chief Douglas Stefko for his outstanding service to the South Euclid Fire Department and the residents of the City of South Euclid, Ohio. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Continenza.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The legislation has been approved.

Approval of Minutes**January 3, 2022 Special Meeting.**

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Continenza.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The Minutes have been approved.

December 13, 2021

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Continenza.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The minutes have been approved.

Report of Mayor

- South Euclid Poet Laureate Doc Janning recited the evening's poem.
- Mayor Welo reported that all directors are present.
- Economic Development Director Love gave an update on Leopardo project and that the roof replacement is on hold at City Hall until spring and that renovations have begun at the Community Center. Mr. Love reported that the Rock the Block fundraiser will be held this Saturday at the Black Forest from 5-9 pm and that due to material delays, the opening of the new Starbucks at Mayfield and Green will be delayed until May.
- Housing Director Martin urged support of Resolution 07-22 for nuisance abatement grass contract and stated that she is pleased to be at her last official meeting as a city employee.
- City Engineer Blackley gave an update on the Green Road construction project and reported that the bids for road projects came in significantly under the estimate and was awarded to the Agresta Company who will begin in late March. Mr. Blackley reported that there will be a bid opening on February 3rd for Phase II of the Oakmount Road project.
- Fire Chief Csire stated that the work of retiring Chief Doug Stefko prepared him and the department to do the work that needs to be done. Chief Csire reported that Capt. Gaspar will be sworn in as the new Assistant Chief at an upcoming meeting and a new fire fighter is being hired in the coming weeks.

- Mayor Welo thanked Service Director Anderson and the department for their work and dedication clearing snow during last week's storm and that she is proud of the work they have done.
- Mayor Welo reported that St. John's will be holding their spaghetti dinner fundraiser this Wednesday from 5-7.
- Mayor Welo reminded residents to help clear fire hydrants and keep sidewalks clear for the students walking to school and seniors as well.
- Mayor thanked Sally Martin for her work and dedication to the South Euclid community. Ms. Welo stated that Sally came to the city during the housing and foreclosure crisis – which was one of the most challenging times for the community and stated that she cannot thank Sally enough for the work she has done for us and that she is going on to an even bigger job in Cleveland that will impact all neighborhoods with Mayor Bibb. Ms. Welo stated that if there's anyone that can turn Cleveland's housing problems around it's Sally Martin.

Report of Law Director. Mr. Lograsso stated that he had no formal report this evening and wished Fire Chief Stefko best wishes in his retirement.

School District Report No report.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items

There were no public comments concerning agenda items.

Report of Council Committees

Safety Committee

Chairwoman Elston reported that the committee met to discuss updates to the city's fireworks ordinance and that the committee will meet again in the coming weeks.

Committee of the Whole

Council President Gray reported that the committee met to discuss the format for the upcoming budget process and meetings with the Municipal Court and Judge to discuss their budget. Ms. Gray stated that the Mayor has continued to manage expenses and thanked the Mayor and department heads for their work.

Zoning & Planning Committee

Introduced by Gray

Resolution 04-21

RESOLUTION

Amending Chapter 1107 "Automobile Sales" of Part Eleven "Business Regulation Code" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of South Euclid, Ohio. **Third Reading.**

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

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The legislation has been approved.

Introduced by Gray

Ordinance 22-21

ORDINANCE

Amending Section 731.03 "General Commercial Districts" of Chapter 731 "Permitted Uses In Commercial Districts" of Title Three "Commercial District Regulations;" Amending Section 741.02 "Limited Manufacturing (M-1) Districts," and Section 741.04 "Sale of Gasoline and/or Motor Vehicle Fuel From Premises At Which Alcoholic Beverages Are Sold or Offered For Sale; Penalty" of Chapter 741 "Permitted Uses In Manufacturing Districts" of Title Four "Manufacturing District Regulations" of Part Seven "Planning and Zoning Code," of The Codified Ordinances of The City Of South Euclid, Ohio. **Second Reading.**

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

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The legislation has been approved.

Legislation Requested by City Council

Introduced by Gray

Resolution 05-22

RESOLUTION

Requesting the Ohio State Legislature introduce and pass legislation to merge the South Euclid Municipal Court with a neighboring Municipal Court and requesting the Ohio Supreme Court to assist with said merger. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Continenza, **Seconded by** Councilman Frank.

Council President Pro Tem Continenza read the legislation for the record.

Councilman Frank stated that promoting regionalism is something that we have been looking at for all departments and operations and ways for our community to save residents hard-earned tax dollars.

Council President Gray stated that the legislation has been requested by all of City Council and that this is part of the City's need to be fiscally responsible for the finances of the city. Ms. Gray stated that regionalism is not something new and that the potential merger of the court is something that can ensure that the weight does not fall on one group of people. Council President Gray stated that a letter was sent to Judge Williams-Byers last week asking for her support as we go into the next phase and that this is the beginning of a long process.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The legislation has been approved.

Legislation Requested by the Mayor & Administration

Introduced by Gray

Resolution 07-22

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Mayor to prepare the necessary specifications, advertise for bids, and enter into subsequent contracts for the 2022-2023 Nuisance Abatement Landscaping Program in the City of South Euclid, Ohio. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilman Tisdale, **Seconded by** Councilman Frank.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

The legislation has been approved.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business:

- George Bernstein, 2091 Langerdale Blvd., inquired about the impending sale of three lots on the west side of South Green Road and that he understands that Dr. Senders is proposing to buy the property. Mr. Bernstein stated that he and his wife are concerned about potential traffic issues and if parking lots are built, it could lower their property values. Director Love reported on the issue and that the property at the corner of South Green and Acacia was originally purchased by an individual, however the lots were seized by the US Marshal's office and will be listed on the open market in the next 60-90 days, so anyone can purchase the properties. Mr. Love stated that the land is zoned residential/office so depending on who purchases them, the land could be used for new single-family homes or potential office. Mr. Bernstein inquired on if someone has been appointed to replace Councilwoman Goodman.

Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Elston reported on election registration efforts and that now is a perfect time to request a vote by mail ballot if you are not registered or have a change of address.
- Councilwoman Hardy reported on new efforts to promote the pickup of litter in the community and as a result of positive feedback from the article in the last edition of South Euclid Magazine, the City will host a bigger and better City Sweep Community Clean Up Day on May 7th. Ms. Hardy also reported that Arbor Day is April 29th and to please let her know if anyone has recommendations on who the Tree Commission could honor this year. Councilwoman Hardy reported on the process for interviewing Ward 4 City Council candidates and that it's a tough choice and the city cannot go wrong with any of residents that interviewed for the position.
- Councilwoman Continenza asked that residents help elderly neighbors that are having a hard time in the snow and to let her know if there any additional

resources for assistance with shoveling, etc. Ms. Continenza also reported that she is meeting with Cleveland Heights to discuss their potential interest in partnering on a Farmers Market this summer at Quarry Park.

- Councilman Tisdale asked that residents continue to follow covid-19 protocols and to be cautious driving in the winter, especially with students walking to schools.
- Councilman Frank stated that all of the candidates for the Ward 4 council position were extremely impressive and that he would be confident would any of them.
- Council President Gray thanked the Administration for their hard work during both challenging and good times and thanked Council for their work and doing what is in the best interests of the residents of South Euclid. Ms. Gray stated that all of the residents that interviewed for the Ward 4 council position were dynamic, and it is a difficult decision.

Motion to Appoint Ward 4 Council Member.

Susan Hardy made a motion to appoint John Fahsbender. The motion was seconded by Council President Pro Tem Sara Continenza.

Roll Call

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

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

John Fahsbender has been appointed Ward 4 Councilman.

- Mayor Welo offered congratulations and stated that for those candidates that are interested in staying involved there are positions on the City's many Boards and Commissions, as well as with One South Euclid.
- Mayor Welo administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Fahsbender.
- Councilman Fahsbender stated that he is honored and humbled to be a part of council and looks forward to representing the good people of South Euclid to continue to move the City forward in the direction that it's already going.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, **Action:** Motion to Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Continenza.

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

Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilwoman Chanell Elston, Councilman Fahsbender, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale, Council President Ruth Gray.

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Attest:

Council President

Clerk of Council