

**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 John Fahsbender, Councilman Joe Frank, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale, Council President Ruth Gray.

**Swearing-In Ceremony** The Fire Department held a swearing-in ceremony for two new firefighters Scott Grenig and Scott Marzano, who took their oaths of office.

**Approval of Minutes**

JULY 25, 2022

**Action:** Motion to Approve Minutes, **Moved by** Councilwoman Elston, **Seconded by** Councilman Tisdale.

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

**Yes:** Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Councilwoman Chanell Elston, Councilman John Fahsbender, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale, Council President Ruth Gray.

**Abstain:** Councilman Joe Frank (absent from July 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting).  
The minutes have been approved.

**Report of Mayor & Department Heads**

- South Euclid Poet Laureate Doc Janning introduced John Burroughs, a South Euclid resident and current Beat Poet Laureate of the State of Ohio and Beat Poet Laureate of the United States. Mr. Burroughs recited the poem "We are as large as the we".
- Mayor Welo reported that all directors are in attendance except Directors Love, Heilman and Law Director Lograsso, who are excused and attending the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting which is also tonight.
- Community Development Director Benjamin gave an update on the Community and Neighborhood Greenways project, Victory Park Project and other community services updates.
- Acting City Engineer Anthony DiRenzo reported on 2022 Road and Infrastructure projects and that Cleveland Water has approved the City's application for funding for the Dill Road Watermain Replacement that will move forward in 2023 and include the resurfacing of the roadway.
- Mayor Welo reported on past and upcoming events including the annual Junk in the Trunk and the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools Legacy Day. Mayor Welo reported that the City hosted the Euclid Creek Watershed Regional Meeting last week at the Community Center.
- Mayor Welo thanked Councilman Tisdale for attending the Catholic Mass honoring Notre Dame College's Centennial, which was also attended by the Bishop.
- Mayor Welo reported on next week's Community Partnership on Aging Random Acts of Fun comedy show, Community Garage Sale and the Heights Move-a-Thon run/walk/bike event to benefit the Gathering Place.

**Report of Law Director**

Council President Gray reported that there is no report as the Law Director had to attend another meeting.

**Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**Reports of Council Committees**

Committee of the Whole:

Councilman Frank reported that Council held its monthly financial update meeting and that to-date the City has collected approximately \$15 million in revenues, which is up about 8.4% from last year and disbursements are at about \$12 million with a General Fund balance of about \$6 million.

Council President Gray reported that the Committee of the Whole met with State Representative Kent Smith who will be the district's next State Senator and candidate Elliot Forhan who is running for the open State Representative seat. Ms. Gray also reported that City Prosecutor Tim Sterkel attended the meeting who will be the new

Judge replacing Gayle Williams Byers through the end of her term in 2023. At the meeting there was a robust discussion about looking at options to consolidate and merge the court with another regional court system. Ms. Gray stated that there is an Acting Judge coming in and the Court is in absolute shambles, and we need to see where the court is and what can be done differently and better, and make a decision that is in the best interests of our residents and the city. Ms. Gray stated that the Clerk of Court recently resigned without notifying City Council and the Court needs to come back to Council on a quarterly basis to fulfill their obligations of addressing the reconciliation process as outlined by the State Auditor.

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### Legislation Requested by the Mayor & Administration

Introduced by Gray

Resolution 56-22

#### RESOLUTION

Authorizing The Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the performance of Bridge Inspection Services In The City Of South Euclid, Ohio. First Reading.

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

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

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Introduced by Gray

Resolution 57-22

#### RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Director of Community Services to prepare and file a grant application on behalf of the South Euclid Tree Commission for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources "Urban Canopy Restoration Grant Program". 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 = 7)

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

The legislation has been approved.

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Introduced by Gray

Resolution 58-22

#### RESOLUTION

A Resolution authorizing the Director of Community Services & Development to submit a joint application with the Cities of University Heights and Cleveland Heights to the Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for a grant under The Transportation For Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Implementation Grant Program To Fund "Heights Regional Neighborhood Greenways Initiative". First Reading.

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

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

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### Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business:

- Clarice McGregor, 410 Greenvale, congratulated the City on the new construction in her neighborhood and discussed some of the concerns with some abandoned cars in driveways that have been there for some time, along with some issues with rental properties. Mayor Welo thanked Ms. McGregor for alerting us to the issues and Council President Gray reported that she talked to Housing Manager T.J. Murray about abating the nuisances.

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### Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Elston stated that she had no report at this time.

- Councilman Fahsbender thanked the administration for everything they've been doing behind the scenes for the community and that he has enjoyed his nine months on Council.
- Councilman Frank stated that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Notre Dame College was wonderful, and Councilwoman Elston gave a great presentation of the Landmarks Commission Dedication of the College's Administration Building. Mr. Frank thanked the City for honoring his parent's 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.
- Councilwoman Hardy reported on the Community Partnership on Aging's Random Acts of Fun fundraiser and that South Euclid raised the most donations, but lost the other competitive rounds. Ms. Hardy discussed the Council of Councils regional meeting that was held to discuss the latest attempts to consolidate the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) and the challenges for local cities.
- Councilman Tisdale thanked Mayor Welo for asking him to represent the City at Notre Dame College's Centennial Mass Celebration and that he is honored to be a member of the first graduating class of males at the college. Mr. Tisdale thanked Director Benjamin for his leadership on creating new corridors and connections to provide safer transportation for bicycles and pedestrians and providing safer links to connect our neighboring communities and applauded Mr. Benjamin and everything he's done.
- Councilwoman Continenza also reported on the Council of Councils meeting at the conversations regarding the Regional Income Tax Agency. Ms. Continenza reported on the Community Market and the success of the Food Strong fundraiser.
- Council President Gray echoed what other councilmembers have said about the administration and stated that she appreciates all of the hard work and that it is a good time to live in South Euclid and we need to continue our work to keep the community a great place. Ms. Gray offered her appreciation to City Council and that in her many years, this is the best council she has served on and that we each come to the table with different skillsets and respect each other. Ms. Gray addressed a County Executive candidate Lee Weingart's proposal to get rid of RITA and stated that the county's primary job should be providing health and human services and not taking away our tax dollars.

### Adjourn

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

**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 9:15 pm.

Attest:

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Council President

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Clerk of Council