

REGULAR MEETING OF SOUTH EUCLID CITY COUNCIL

Council President Joe Frank called the virtual meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

Minutes of Meetings: May 11, 2020

Action: Motion to Approve Minutes, **Moved by** Councilman Marty Gelfand, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

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

The minutes have been approved.

Report of Mayor

- Mayor Welo called upon poet laureate Doc Janning to recite the evening's poem.
- Mayor Welo reported that SB310 regarding the Coronavirus Relief Funds was approved by the Ohio House with amendments and needs to go back to the Ohio Senate for concurrence.
- The Mayor reported that the administration continues to work hard to hold down costs and staff meet every week to discuss new protocols, including the potential for opening the city's playgrounds pursuant to forthcoming guidance from the state and county.
- Mayor Welo stated that the eastern suburbs, including South Euclid remain a hotspot for the coronavirus and that the hillcrest communities meet every other week with Dr. Parker from the Cleveland Clinic for guidance on moving forward with reopening of community spaces.
- The Mayor reported that all directors are in attendance except Building Commissioner Heilman.
- Economic Development Director Love reported that the Rock the Block Food Drive will take place this Saturday from noon to 5 pm in the St. John's Church parking lot and encouraged residents to bring non-perishable food goods or cash donations. Mr. Love reported on Ordinance 08-20 regarding the NOPEC "do not knock" registry.
- Community Services Director Benjamin reported that the Summer Food Lunch Program began and has served approximately 1,000 lunches a week to community youth.
- City Engineer Blackley reported on the progress of summer road and infrastructure projects including progress being made on Maywood Road and the Angela watermain project. Mr. Blackley reported that the Hinsdale Road Resurfacing Project will go out to bid this week.
- Mayor Welo stated that South Euclid resident Nathanael Honvou, who is 10 years-old will be competing in the finals of American Ninja Warrior Junior Edition this Friday and that there will be a car parade down his street at 7:30 pm.

Report of Law Director: Law Director Lograsso stated that he will discuss litigation matters in Executive Session.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Agenda Items

No members of the public addressed Council.

Report of Committees**Recreation Committee**

Councilwoman Continenza reported that a meeting was held earlier in the evening with representatives from ODNR and USDA, as well as County Councilwoman Simon to discuss the deer population and potential ways to control their population.

Public Utilities Committee

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 61-19

RESOLUTION

A Resolution to establish a goal of one hundred percent green energy for the City of South Euclid facilities by 2025 and for the community at large by 2035. **Second Reading.** Following discussion, **Action:** Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman, **Seconded by** Councilman Justin Tisdale.

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

Legislation Requested by City Council

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 35-20

RESOLUTION

Requesting the United States Congress and Ohio Legislature immediately enact social justice policies and practices to ensure that Black Americans have the same equal protections under the law; and declaring racism a public health crisis; and declaring an emergency. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Ruth Gray, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

- Councilwoman Gray stated that the legislation calls for the enactment of social justice policies and practices in Ohio and throughout and at the federal level to ensure that Black Americans have the same equal protections under the law and declaring racism a public health crisis. Ms. Gray stated that God has placed us all here in a unique place to encourage positive change and as a Councilwoman for the last 15 years, this legislation is not about the South Euclid Police Department, which has strived to become more inclusive and diverse.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that she is speaking not just as a councilwoman, but also as a black wife, mother and grandmother, who has to worry about what happens to her family in the event they have an encounter with the police.
- Councilwoman Gray stated that the legislation is the result of a letter drafted by black elected councilwoman from across Ohio, which was sent to Ohio House and Senate Leadership, as well as our US Congressional representatives and US Senators.
- Mayor Welo commended Councilwoman Gray for bringing the resolution forward and stated that in South Euclid, the administration and city council have worked together and tried very hard to be leaders in diversity and inclusion efforts and ensuring that all people are treated equally. Ms. Welo stated that watching the George Floyd video was very hard to watch and that she can't envision why anyone, especially a police officer, would do something so horrible and stated that Councilwoman Gray's legislation is a right first step and could make a difference and that it always takes the local level of government to bring forward what the people want first and commended Councilwoman Gray and the other elected officials that drafted the letter for bringing this forward.
- Councilman Gelfand thanked Councilwoman Gray for bringing the legislation forward and also thanked the Mayor and Police Chief Nietert for their letter to the community. Mr. Gelfand stated that our Country's original sin is slavery and that it's time to stop systematic racism and recognize that we are all equal under the law.
- Councilman Tisdale thanked Councilwoman Gray for bringing forward the legislation and discussed the importance of residents' listening to each other about issues of racism and social justice and research and educate before talking about these issues.
- Councilwoman Continenza stated that this legislation is amazing for the city and that she chose to live in South Euclid because of its diversity and that she is very proud of this legislation.
- Councilwoman Gray introduced Newburgh Heights Councilwoman Gigi Traore who is attending the virtual meeting, and was the key author of the letter, which served as the basis for the proposed resolution. Councilwoman Traore thanked Mayor Welo and members of Council for their words and stated that it is an opportune time to bring forward these issues as more and more instances of racial injustice are occurring in society and that as the mother of two black

children, hearing George Floyd reach out for his mother in his final moments is what moved her to organize the letter with elected colleagues from across Ohio.

- Councilwoman Goodman thanked Councilwoman Gray and Councilwoman Traore for bringing the legislation forward and stated that working in concert with other communities as a coalition is good.
- Councilwoman Kim Edwards from Warrensville Heights also spoke about the proposed legislation and thanked Council for their consideration.
- Councilwoman Hardy stated that she appreciates that the legislation has very tangible steps in the eight-point plan that government can take to work to end systemic racism.
- Council President Frank stated that he shared the Mayor and Police Chief's statement on Facebook and was proud of the community's response which was with understanding and humility. Mr. Frank thanked Councilwoman Gray for bringing forward the Resolution.

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

Legislation Requested by the Administration

Introduced by Frank

Resolution 36-20

RESOLUTION

Adopting the Fiscal Budget for the Year Beginning January 1, 2021. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Council President Joe Frank,

Seconded by Councilwoman Ruth Gray.

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

Introduced by Frank

Ordinance 08-20

ORDINANCE

Amending Section 1127.07 "Trespassing in Violation of Posted Signs" of Chapter 1127

"Canvassing, Soliciting or Peddling for Residential Sales of Property and for Charitable Purposes" of Part Eleven "Business Regulation 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 Safety Committee for further discussion.

Introduced by Frank

Ordinance 09-20

ORDINANCE

Approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances; providing for the adoption and publication of new matter in the updated and revised Codified Ordinances; repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith; and declaring an emergency. First Reading.

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Susan Hardy,

Seconded by Councilwoman Jane Goodman.

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

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

The legislation has been approved.

Public Hearings (Open Meeting) Related to Open Business

- Doc Janning: 2092 Campus Road read a statement in support of racial justice and eliminating racism.
- Joan Albro: 4500 Whitehall Road, reported on issues she is having with a new home being built next door including fencing issues and a crack in the soil that has caused the foundation to be unstable. Ms. Albro stated that she sent photos of the issue to the Mayor and that subsequently Housing Director Martin and Lead Housing Inspector Murray inspected the site. Housing Director Martin stated that she spoke to the builder of the home and that they are obtaining the required tests and soil samples to make sure that there are no issues going forward and that any of Ms. Albro's property, which is disturbed by the construction will be restored.

Communications of City Council

- Councilwoman Goodman thanked the Fire Department and the EMTs for being so kind and gentle when transporting her sister to the hospital earlier in the day and that the Fire Department is wonderful in some of our worst times. Councilwoman Goodman reported that a Tree Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday at 6 pm on Zoom.
- Councilman Gelfand scheduled a Safety Committee Meeting for June 22nd at 6pm to discuss several items pending in committee.
- Councilman Tisdale requested that residents continue to wash hands and wear masks.
- Councilwoman Hardy had no report this evening.
- Councilwoman Continenza scheduled a Recreation Meeting for June 22nd at 5 pm and also asked residents to stay safe and wear masks as directed, but you do not need to wear a mask if you are alone in your car.
- Councilwoman Gray expressed her appreciation to Mayor and reported that the Covid-19 virus is still alive and kicking and that while most of Ohio is opening back up, the state has not yet given clearance for senior facilities. Councilwoman Gray stated that residents should respect the virus and be cautious. Ms. Gray thanked City Council for passing the anti-racism legislation.
- Council President Frank also thanked Council for their support of Councilwoman Gray's Resolution.

Adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Pending Litigation.

Action: Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session , **Moved by** Council President Joe Frank, **Seconded by** Councilman Marty Gelfand.

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

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

City Council Adjourned to Executive Session at 9:20 pm.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to Approve Legislation, **Moved by** Councilwoman Jane Goodman, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Sara Continenza.

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

Yes: Councilwoman Sara Continenza, Council President Joe Frank, Councilman Marty Gelfand, Councilwoman Jane Goodman, Councilwoman Susan Hardy, Councilman Justin Tisdale.

Absent: Councilwoman Ruth Gray (technical issues reconnecting to Webex).

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Council President

Attest:

Clerk of Council