

Annual Legislative Report
Legislative Year 2020 (Dec. 2019 to Nov. 2020)



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Prepared for City Council
City of North Canton
Office of Council
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Certified Final Copy by:

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Clerk of Council

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Personnel

City Council is responsible for the management and oversight of senior staff for the Department of Finance, the Department of Law, and the Office of City Council. In addition, Council makes several appointments to City boards and commissions.

Office of Council

City Council

Legislative year 2020 was the inaugural session of the 90th Council of North Canton. During the session, Council had no resignations or retirements and therefore made no vacancy appointments. The seven members of Council were as follows:

Ward 1 – Doug Foltz

Councilmember Foltz has served as the Ward 1 Council representative since 1996 making this year his 25th consecutive year of service. Councilmember Foltz is the 3rd longest-serving elected official in North Canton's history. This year Member Foltz was Chairman of the Park and Recreation Committee and Vice Chairman of the Ordinance, Rules, and Claims Committee.

Ward 2 – Daniel “Jeff” Peters

Council Member Peters has served as the Ward 2 Council representative since 2009 making this his 12th consecutive year of service. For legislative year 2020 Councilmember Peters was elected President of Council and served as Chairman of the Personnel and Safety Committee and Vice Chairman of the Street and Alley Committee.

Ward 3 – Stephanie Werren

Councilmember Werren has served as the Ward 3 Council representative since 2012 making this year her 9th consecutive year of service. This year member Werren was Chairwoman of the Finance and Property Committee and Vice Chairwoman of the Park and Recreation Committee.

Ward 4 – Dominic Fonte

Councilmember Fonte has served as the Ward 4 Council representative since 2014 making this year his 7th consecutive year of service. This year member Fonte was Chairman of the Street and Alley Committee and Vice Chairman of the Personnel and Safety Committee.

At Large – Mark Cerreta

Councilmember Cerreta has served as an At-Large Council representative since 2011 making this year his 10th year of service. This year member Cerreta was Chairman of the Water, Sewer, and Rubbish Committee and Vice Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee.

At Large – Daryl Revoldt

Councilmember Revoldt has served as an At-Large Council representative since 2018 making this year his 3rd consecutive year of service. Having previously served as both on Council and as Mayor member Revoldt is the 2nd longest-serving elected official in North Canton history having spent 34 of the past 39 years in office. This year member Revoldt was Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee and Vice Chairman of the Water, Sewer, and Rubbish Committee.



At Large – Matthew Stroia

Councilmember Stroia is a freshman At-Large Council representative first elected for the 2020 session. This year member Stroia was Chairman of the Ordinance, Rules, and Claims Committee and Vice Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee.

Clerk of Council

At the beginning of the 2020 legislative session, following the resignation of Director of Finance Laura Brown, Council appointed Department of Administration intern Benjamin Young to serve as interim Clerk of Council. After soliciting applications and reviewing candidates Council chose to hire Mr. Young as full-time Clerk of Council in April 2020. Mr. Young is still serving in that position. During the 2020 legislative session Clerk Young was also aided by two collegiate interns, Edward Walsh from Walsh University during the summer and Margaret Straub from Kent State University during the fall.

Department of Law

After more than seven years of dedicated service Director of Law Timothy L. Fox resigned effective August 21, 2020. Following his resignation, Council chose to contract with a law firm to provide legal services to the City of North Canton and appointed Wayne Boyer from Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. as Director of Law along with several other of the firm's lawyers as Assistant Directors of Law. The Department of Law currently has no in-house staff.

Department of Finance

Following the resignation of Director of Finance Laura Brown, shortly before the beginning of the 2020 legislative session, Council initiated a hiring search and selected Jina Alaback to fill the role in December 2019. Ms. Alaback is still serving in that role. The Department of finance also hired a new accountant, Tracy Munson.

Council Appointments

This year City Council made two appointments to City boards and commissions. John Zepp to the North Canton Community Improvement Corporation and Debra Howard to the Civil Service Commission.



Meetings

In legislative year 2020 Council held sixty-two meetings on forty-one different nights. The majority of meetings were Council meetings of which Council held nineteen regular and fifteen specials. Council also held eighteen regular Committees of the Whole, seven Special Committees of the Whole, two public hearings on zoning amendments, one meeting on an individual Committee, and the annual organizational meeting was held on December 2, 2019. Five regular meetings were canceled due to government-recognized holidays.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council canceled two meetings scheduled for March 23, 2020. Beginning with the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 30, 2020, Council began to hold all meetings virtually via teleconference. This practice continued through the end of the year.

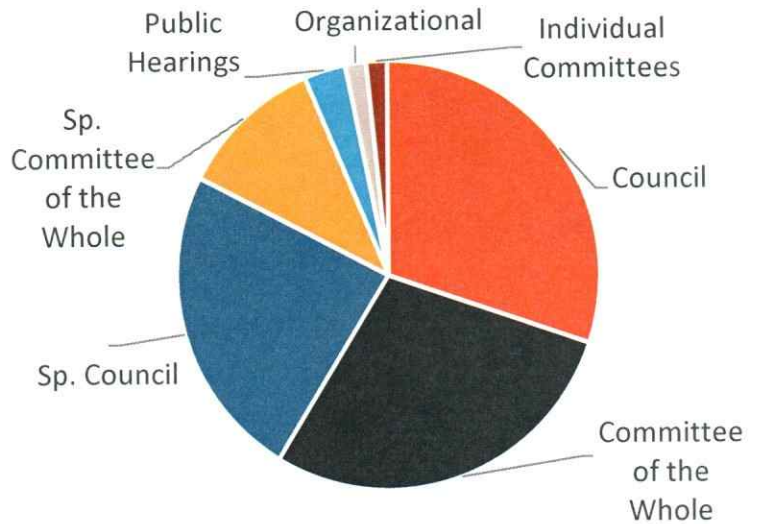


Figure 1: Meetings of Council by type



Legislation

In 2020 Council considered 89 pieces of legislation and passed 85; 77 ordinances and 11 resolutions. Figure 2 below shows the breakdown of legislation by the Committee of Council. Figure 3 shows legislation by type. More detailed descriptions of each ordinance or resolution can be found in the full committee legislation reports attached hereto.

Legislation by Committee

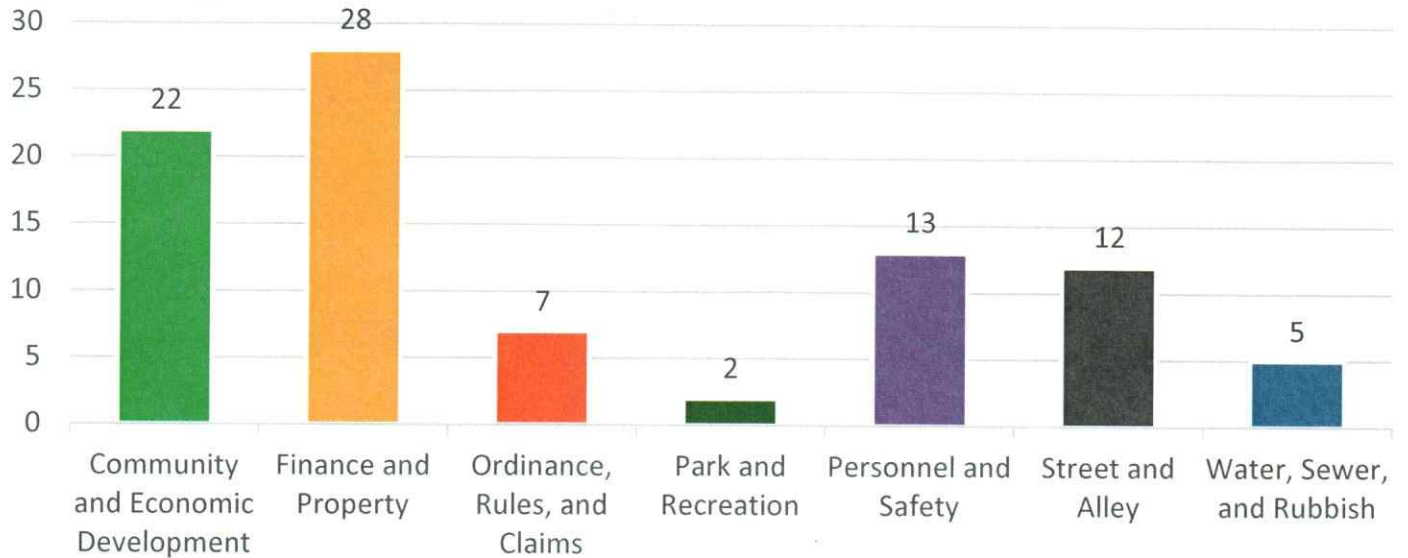


Figure 2: Legislation Passed in Council by Originating Committee

Legislation by Type

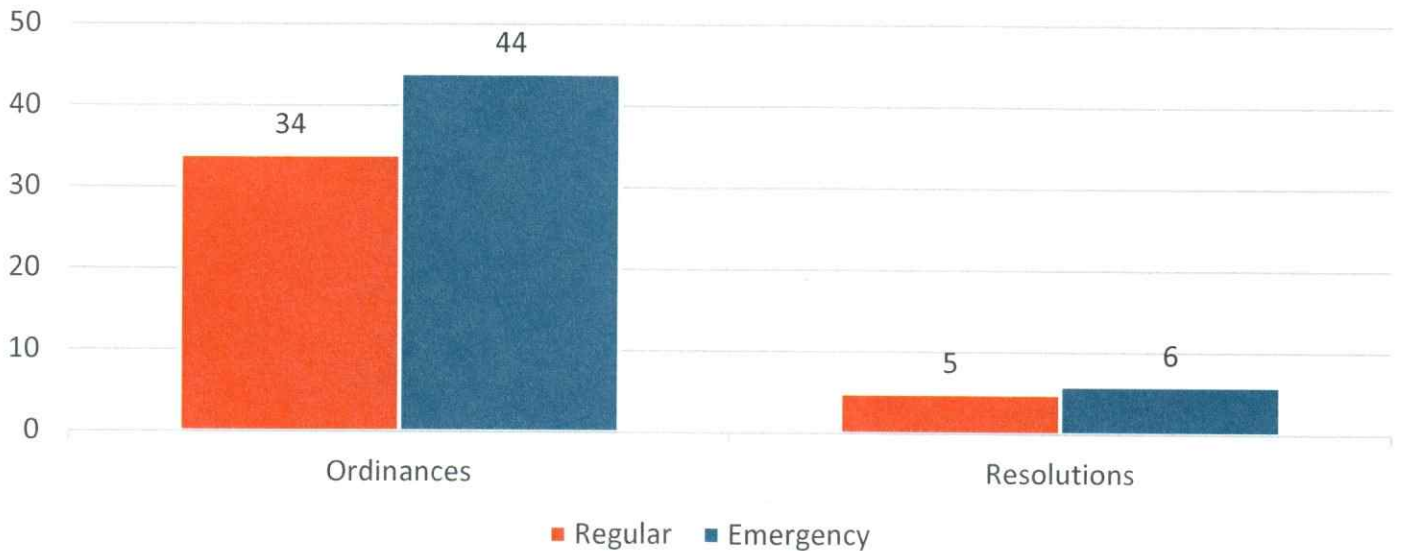


Figure 3: Legislation Council by Type



Council Initiatives

Council Records Project

During the Summer of 2020, the Office of City Council undertook a comprehensive review of all records maintained by the Office, how they were stored, and how best to store them in the future. This effort grew into the ongoing Council Records Retention Project planned to take place over the next three years. This effort is summarized in the *Records of the Office of City Council* report. Notable initiatives undertaken this year include:

Ordinance Recodification

The Office took over the Codification of City Ordinances internally in order to save money and ensure accuracy and efficiency. The first publication of the Codified Ordinances codified internally in more than 50 years took effect on November 11, 2020, and will be fully built out on the City’s website by January 1, 2020. The Full text is currently available for download on the City website.

New Rules of Council

In an effort to improve the function of City Council efforts were taken to improve the rules of City Council and decodify them. Several drafts were introduced to Council for consideration and the item is currently still on Council’s docket.

Adoption of tracking software – Granicus and AirTable

The Office of Council adopted two pieces of software used both to track activities of the office internally as well as make Council’s operation more transparent to the public. AirTable tracks City Council docket and is viewable to the public on Council’s webpage. Granicus help to build agendas and automate the approval process to ensure no items are forgotten. Granicus is still in implementation but will be viewable to the public after it is fully implemented sometime early next year.

Reports

During Legislative Year 2020 Council’s office completed 6 reports as detailed below.

| Report Title | Date Completed | Prepared for: | Presented to Council? |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Records of the Office of City Council</i> | 07/15/2020 | City Council | Yes, 08/31/2020 |
| <i>ADA Internet Compliance</i> | 08/05/2020 | Daryl Revoldt | No |
| <i>Council Meeting Formats</i> | 10/09/2020 | Ordinance, Rules, and Claims Committee | Yes, via email. |
| <i>Rates and Fees Ordinances</i> | 10/14/2020 | Department of Administration | No |
| <i>Annual Legislative Report 2019</i> | 11/20/2020 | City Council | Yes, 11/16/2020 |
| <i>Annual Legislative Report 2020</i> | 11/20/2020 | City Council | Yes, 11/16/2020 |
| <i>Following the Plan</i> | 11/20/2020 | City Council | Yet to be presented. |

