

CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
JUNE 5, 2023, MEETING

- - - - -

Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the North Canton Civic Center, 845 West Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio, on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

- - - - -

Premier Court Reporting
Canton 330.492.4221 Akron 330.928.1418
www.premierreporters.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES:

- Matthew Stroia, Council President, At Large
- Stephanie Werren, Council Vice President, Ward 3
- Jamie McCleaster, Ward 1
- David Metheney, Ward 2
- John Orr, Ward 4
- Daryl Revoldt, At Large
- Christina Weyrick, At Large
- Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development
- Jina E. Alaback, Director of Finance
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Benjamin R. Young, Clerk
- Ginny Grier, Assistant Clerk of Council

- - - - -

1 MR. STROIA: I'll now call to order the
2 committee of the whole. It's June 5, 2023. The time
3 is 7 p.m.

4 Ben, would you please call the roll.

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

6 MR. STROIA: Here.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

8 MR. ORR: Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

10 MR. METHENEY: Here.

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member McCleaster.

14 MR. MCCLEASTER: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick.

16 MS. WEYRICK: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

18 MRS. WERREN: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

20 MR. STROIA: Okay. Let's start off with
21 Finance and Property. Stephanie.

22 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Jina, do you want to
23 handle this one? It's really just pretty basic.

24 MS. ALABACK: Yeah. The CIC owns this
25 property, and this is the corner at Willaman where

1 the roundabout will be, and so the CIC is going to
2 transfer the property to the city.

3 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Pretty basic. Any
4 questions?

5 Are we excited about a roundabout? Dave, I'm
6 with you.

7 MR. REVOLDT: The body shops are.

8 MRS. WERREN: Yes. I know. But they have
9 the least chance of accidents, do you know that?
10 Yeah. Crazy.

11 Okay. Any -- any issues? All right.

12 MR. STROIA: I want to put it on record that
13 my mom is terrified of roundabouts.

14 MRS. WERREN: I understand. Yes. Or you're
15 mad at the people that don't understand roundabouts.

16 MR. STROIA: Yes.

17 MRS. WERREN: Yes. Okay. Okay. We'll put
18 that on the agenda.

19 And then the second one is --

20 MR. YOUNG: You need a motion.

21 MR. REVOLDT: A motion needs to be placed on
22 the agenda.

23 MRS. WERREN: Sorry.

24 MR. ORR: Second.

25 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

1 ("Aye" in unison.)

2 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

3 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Then 3b -- sorry,
4 swallow. Just moving some expenses for the fiscal
5 year. Jina, anything regarding?

6 MS. ALABACK: Yes. This is for two new
7 radios, one for the fire department and one to
8 replace one in the police department.

9 MRS. WERREN: How long do those typically
10 last, Chief?

11 CHIEF KEMP: The one that we are replacing
12 when Chief Grimes and Chief Bacon originally put the
13 MARCS radio systems into our city, so well over
14 probably plus-12 years.

15 MRS. WERREN: Okay. So just updating.
16 There's new --

17 CHIEF KEMP: We knew we were going to have
18 to, down the road, replace these radios because they
19 were getting dated. These were outside of the
20 manufacturers keeping repair parts for them. This
21 one finally went. We tried to fix it a couple of
22 different ways and we just -- we can't transmit on
23 it.

24 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

25 MR. METHENEY: How many more do you have that

1 age?

2 CHIEF KEMP: One that is a couple years
3 younger than that one.

4 MR. METHENEY: Something we should consider
5 for budgeting going forward then.

6 CHIEF KEMP: Yes, sir.

7 MRS. WERREN: Okay. All right. Can I have a
8 motion?

9 MR. REVOLDT: Just a minute.

10 MRS. WERREN: You have a question?

11 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah. More of a comment than a
12 question. You know, we all read in our excellent
13 newsletter that was delivered to our residents the
14 importance of economic development, and I just want
15 to point out on this little \$18,000 purchase, that's
16 the equivalent of 29 jobs at \$40,000 a year. That's
17 what it takes to make the place run. And that's why
18 every job that we have in the community, large or
19 small, is important. 29 jobs gets us \$18,000 worth
20 of radio equipment.

21 MR. MCCLEASTER: Great way of describing.

22 MR. STROIA: H'm?

23 MR. MCCLEASTER: It's a great way to describe
24 it.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. That was my comment, not

1 a question. You need a motion, which I will make it.

2 MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

3 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

4 ("Aye" in unison.)

5 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

6 Okay. Moving on to 4a, this is repealing and
7 replacing Chapter 907. Ben, I will let you give the
8 overview on that. Go on.

9 MR. YOUNG: So I was approached by two sewer
10 contractors that came to the window and wanted to
11 speak to council's office to file a complaint. Not
12 totally uncommon, but what was very refreshing was
13 that they also brought a solution with them.

14 So currently for road opening permits, street
15 excavations, of which sewer contractors are our main
16 users, the only option is to give a cash bond. So in
17 this example, one of the gentlemen I was talking to
18 works for Roto-Rooter. If he had three jobs in the
19 city all with that \$5,000 cash bonds, that's \$15,000
20 of cash he had to have tied up just to do three jobs.
21 So he asked that we change the ordinance to allow for
22 commercial bonds. So I ran the traps, talked to the
23 other departments, and pretty much the general
24 sentiment was yes, why don't we do this, that would
25 be a lot easier. I don't have to do a refund, all I

1 have to do is sign a line at the bottom of the bond
2 that says released. So here we are. We are bringing
3 to you a suggestion to amend our ordinance that would
4 allow either a cash bond or a commercial bond,
5 whatever your preference may be.

6 MRS. WERREN: And that's -- and that's what
7 we do for other situations when they're building. We
8 don't make builders put down X amount of money.

9 MR. YOUNG: Correct.

10 MRS. WERREN: And we release it, so that's
11 very much like what we're doing.

12 MR. YOUNG: The next three items are sidewalk
13 bonds for developers that we don't make them put up
14 cash, we make them put up a bond.

15 MRS. WERREN: Yeah.

16 MS. FARINA: It's important to note -- if I
17 can, it's important to note what Ben mentioned, the
18 Roto-Rooter. That was a franchisee. So when you're
19 a smaller franchisee, that's a lot of capital to tie
20 up. Large developers have that.

21 MR. MCCLEASTER: Well, that's just assuming
22 that they have two or three in the city of North
23 Canton. What about other cities, other areas? So
24 that would be a significant amount of money.

25 MS. FARINA: So they did bring that solution.

1 That's great.

2 MRS. WERREN: So, Ben, are there any other
3 situations like that where we are making them do cash
4 that we would have other options for?

5 MR. YOUNG: I was not able to find any others
6 where cash was the only option.

7 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

8 MR. YOUNG: This appeared to be the last one
9 that was cash only.

10 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

11 MR. STROIA: Any comments? Questions?

12 MR. REVOLDT: Just one other thing. If
13 you're a resident and you're soliciting quotes, this
14 would probably make it more competitive because,
15 again, that small businessperson can compete in this
16 space for that opportunity. Whereas, only -- only
17 the larger companies would have cash and they would
18 obviously then control the marketplace or influence
19 the marketplace.

20 MR. MCCLEASTER: That's a really good point.
21 I mean, the thing that stuck out to me as I was
22 reading through this is this line right here in the
23 cover page, found that switching to a commercial bond
24 would not only save the city time and costs but it
25 would prevent contractors from being able to tie up

1 this capital. I mean, so it's like a win for the
2 city. We're saving time, we're saving money, but
3 it's also saving, you know, the money being tied up
4 for the contractors. And I think we've all heard the
5 comments from people from time to time that North
6 Canton is not friendly toward contractors. And this
7 is just one step in the right direction. One of many
8 steps in the right direction, I should say.

9 MR. YOUNG: So the second change, which was
10 also proposed by the contractor I talked to, is under
11 our current ordinance the bond amount is set by Rob
12 based on what they're proposing to do. So this means
13 that bonds could be very different based on what
14 house you're doing where. The example the gentleman
15 from Roto-Rooter gave me was he did one house, had a
16 thousand-dollar bond; three houses down the street
17 had a \$5,000 bond because there's a manhole right in
18 front of that. That made it difficult to know how
19 much the permit was going to be when pricing for
20 customers; that they had to say I don't know, I got
21 to go into the permits office first. So we've -- the
22 proposal also standardizes the bond amount to just
23 flat \$10,000 for a minor job, 25,000 for a major job.

24 MR. REVOLDT: And you've defined major and
25 minor how?

1 MR. YOUNG: The engineer would still choose
2 minor and major depending on how close they are to a
3 manhole or water line, or basically how much damage
4 could you cause if you did something wrong. And
5 there is a caveat in there that for truly huge
6 projects, so, for example, Dominion coming through
7 and ripping up a whole neighborhood, we will set --
8 we will set the bond amount at that time at some
9 higher amount than 25,000 because that is such a
10 large project. Or if you were going to tap into a
11 concrete water main, that's a lot -- a lot more
12 dangerous to tap into a 12-inch concrete water main
13 than a 4-inch iron water main.

14 MR. STROIA: Anything else? Any other
15 comments? Questions?

16 I'll make a motion that we put this on the
17 agenda.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt will second.

19 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

22 Okay. So moving on to 4b, c, and d, let's
23 group these together and then we'll vote on them
24 individually. They're all for -- Ben, I'll let you
25 take this. They're all for entering in amended and

1 restated sidewalk bonds.

2 MR. YOUNG: Yeah. So this is exactly what we
3 just did for Phase 3. The developers essentially
4 released their bond for Phase 3 and go, wait a
5 minute. We've got four other phases that you're also
6 holding lots on that we'd like to sell. So all three
7 of these bonds will be converted from lots to
8 commercial bonds, and they have requested an
9 emergency because the lots for Phase 1 and 2 are
10 already under contract. So they would like them
11 released as soon as possible in order to sell.

12 MR. STROIA: Okay. Pretty basic. Any
13 comments? Questions?

14 I'm going to make a motion that we move Item
15 4b to the council agenda.

16 MR. REVOLDT: With an emergency clause.

17 MR. STROIA: With an emergency clause.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Second.

19 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

22 Then I'm going to make a motion to move 4c to
23 the agenda with an emergency clause.

24 MRS. WERREN: So moved.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Second.

1 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

2 ("Aye" in unison.)

3 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

4 And then finally I'm going to make a motion
5 to move 4d to the council agenda with an emergency
6 clause.

7 MR. REVOLDT: Second.

8 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

9 ("Aye" in unison.)

10 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

11 Okay. Moving on to 4e. This is kind of
12 exciting, actually. So this deals with turning on no
13 turn on red. I'm going to bring to everybody's
14 attention on page 40, it shows the highlighted
15 changes in the chart, highlighted, very easy to read.

16 MRS. WERREN: Ben, can you put it up on the
17 screen? Thank you.

18 MR. STROIA: So as you can see, there's going
19 to be three different kinds here. Ben, I'll let you
20 take this, but I am very excited to know that -- or
21 to learn that we're addressing this because this
22 needed to be addressed for a long time.

23 MR. YOUNG: So this started with Patrick had
24 initially asked me to write -- draft an ordinance to
25 repeal the no turn on red at Charlotte and Main

1 because we're putting in the right turn lane and that
2 would sort of defeat the purpose of right turn lanes
3 if you couldn't turn right on red. But then that, in
4 hunting down the ordinance that established that
5 prohibition, it turned into a conversation of, well,
6 how many of these exist in the city, and then turned
7 into a wider conversation with Rob with how many of
8 them are still needed.

9 So the ordinance before you tonight proposes
10 to keep three of the prohibitions of no turn on red.
11 So those are the three in green.

12 MRS. WERREN: They don't have a turn lane.

13 MR. YOUNG: None of these have a dedicated
14 turn lane. Well, Clearmount will have a dedicated
15 but only in one direction of the T.

16 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

17 MR. YOUNG: So Main and Maple, town square,
18 will be -- still be prohibited right turns at all
19 times. Maple and Clearmount will be prohibited right
20 turns during school hours on weekdays. That's what
21 the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. means. And Hillcrest and Maple
22 will be prohibited right turns during school hours on
23 weekdays. All of the rest will be repealed.

24 MR. STROIA: Excellent. Any comments?

25 Questions?

1 MRS. WERREN: So, Ben, why do you think that
2 the ones that were previously repealed? So they
3 looked at those, they just hadn't looked at them as a
4 grouping before? Or is this just we had to dig a
5 little bit deeper and thus the changes?

6 MR. YOUNG: In 2018, they -- so progression
7 of this is that Ordinance 3544 was passed. The next
8 one amends that one, and then 2018 amends that one.

9 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

10 MR. YOUNG: Now this one amends that. So
11 it's sort of been a changing list as the years have
12 gone by.

13 MRS. WERREN: Yeah.

14 MR. YOUNG: Based on traffic flows and
15 signalization and where schools are located was a
16 large part of it.

17 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

18 MS. WEYRICK: I'm guessing Hillcrest and
19 Maple is keeping the no turn on red because of the
20 middle school? Like the children walking from the
21 middle school? Oh, there will also be an elementary.

22 MR. YOUNG: There's Charlotte now, and that's
23 still really, in that area, the best place to cross
24 north-south Maple in that neighborhood.

25 MS. WEYRICK: So Main and 7th also have a lot

1 of students crossing; correct?

2 MR. YOUNG: Correct, but that intersection
3 has push to cross buttons. Hillcrest to Maple only
4 has one push to cross button in one direction, not in
5 both directions.

6 MS. WEYRICK: Okay.

7 MR. YOUNG: We do have a crossing guard at
8 Hillcrest and Maple. Correct me if I'm wrong, Chief.

9 MS. WEYRICK: Okay. So the push to cross
10 button, that's what is there at Maple and Main as
11 well; right?

12 MR. YOUNG: Maple and Main, yes.

13 MS. WEYRICK: Yeah. So we're keeping it
14 there I assume because -- I shouldn't be making all
15 these assumptions, but it makes sense to me because
16 as a frequent walker when the right is red I can
17 safely cross if it says cross. However, if it's 7th
18 and Main and you push to cross, you can't have a
19 little walking man to tell you to cross, but if it's
20 right on red you have to be careful.

21 MR. YOUNG: If you're a pedestrian and you
22 have the walking man, you have right of way over
23 whoever is turning right on red.

24 MS. WEYRICK: But the --

25 MR. MCCLEASTER: This is an industry term.

1 MS. WEYRICK: Okay. I mean --

2 MR. YOUNG: Main is being kept for two
3 reasons: On the west side you still have buildings
4 very close to the intersection that make it difficult
5 to see. And then also that intent of a
6 pedestrian-centric town square.

7 MS. WEYRICK: Okay.

8 MR. REVOLDT: I have -- I have a question.
9 I'm looking at the Main and Everhard intersection
10 southbound. We have signal arrows that allow you to
11 go right on red.

12 MR. YOUNG: Yeah.

13 MR. REVOLDT: What you're going to do,
14 however, is that signal arrow is not lit, you can go
15 right on red; correct?

16 MR. YOUNG: If the signal arrow is red and is
17 there is nobody turning left, you may turn right.

18 MR. REVOLDT: I would suggest that you
19 revisit that. Because traffic moves at a fairly good
20 clip south to north and there's a lot of activity at
21 that intersection. And I think it may be very easy
22 for a motorist to miss the cue and make the turn and
23 pull into traffic that has a green arrow to make a
24 left.

25 MR. STROIA: Which one?

1 MR. REVOLDT: This is the Main and Everhard
2 intersection. I would --

3 MR. METHENEY: I'm agreeing with you, Daryl,
4 because you have really got to pull far from -- if
5 you're heading south on Main Street?

6 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah.

7 MR. METHENEY: You really got to pull forward
8 to make a right turn on Everhard, and those that are
9 heading north on Main Street only have that one lane
10 to pull into and that's the lane that those making a
11 right-hand turn would go along. You can see here
12 you've got to pull way forward beyond the stop line
13 in order to make that turn.

14 MR. MCCLEASTER: I think if you think about
15 that intersection, that's unique compared to the
16 other ones on the list.

17 MR. STROIA: It definitely is, yeah.

18 MR. REVOLDT: For the sake of expediency, if
19 you're looking for a motion, I would make a motion
20 that we set aside the Main and Everhard intersection,
21 adopt the other changes as recommended and then we
22 can revisit that if we want to.

23 MR. STROIA: Okay.

24 MR. REVOLDT: And we can -- I don't know,
25 we'll just let it stew a little. I guess we're not

1 going to do this on emergency, are we?

2 MR. YOUNG: No.

3 MR. STROIA: No.

4 MR. REVOLDT: No. So we can come back to it
5 and reamend the ordinance if we want.

6 MR. STROIA: Yes, this will be on emergency.

7 MR. REVOLDT: So we'll just come back and
8 revisit again. Maybe we can all drive it and I'll
9 pay a little more attention when I go through and see
10 about it but I make a lot of right turns on to
11 Everhard Road as I go home after I've been to the
12 library.

13 MR. YOUNG: So you would like Main and
14 Everhard kept?

15 MR. REVOLDT: Excuse me?

16 MR. YOUNG: You would like the prohibition --

17 MR. REVOLDT: Kept.

18 MR. YOUNG: For now.

19 MR. REVOLDT: Uh-huh. So what I'm
20 recommending is that we -- we advance this. My
21 recommendation is that we advance this to the next
22 council meeting. My motion is that it be advanced,
23 with Main and Everhard kept deleted from the
24 ordinance.

25 MR. STROIA: Okay.

1 MR. METHENEY: I'll second that motion.

2 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

3 ("Aye" in unison.)

4 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

5 Okay. So two things before we adjourn. One
6 is the mayor wanted to make some comments.

7 MAYOR WILDER: Yes. Thank you, President
8 Stroia.

9 Just a couple of things to make sure you're
10 aware of. The North Canton Fire Department, they're
11 going to conduct a hydrant flow test at Mount
12 Pleasant and Frank Avenue by the airport on
13 Wednesday, June 7, at approximately 5 a.m. So nearby
14 city water customers should check their water for
15 discoloration before laundering.

16 This one is a little closer to home. Also on
17 Wednesday hydrant flow will be conducted by the fire
18 department. It's going to be up by Dogwood Pool on
19 Wednesday, and that's June 7, and that's also in the
20 morning from about 5:45 to 7:00. And again, any
21 nearby water customers should check their water for
22 discoloration before laundering. So I just wanted to
23 make sure you're aware of that in your areas.

24 And there is going to be a -- a
25 ribbon-cutting for the Goodwill Bookstore and

1 Donation Center. They have located out at the 2207
2 Easton -- or East Maple Street. That's in the --
3 where the post office is. It's in that little
4 complex there. And they're doing their ribbon
5 cutting on Wednesday at 5 o'clock. So I just wanted
6 to make council aware of that.

7 And that's my announcement. Thank you.

8 MR. STROIA: All right. Thank you.

9 We are going to -- let's just add it, there's
10 a great chance that we're going to have to have a
11 committee meeting before break, so let's tentatively
12 add a committee of the whole meeting for June 26 and
13 we'll double up with the regular committee meeting
14 then. So if you look at the --

15 MR. YOUNG: Regular council meeting.

16 MR. STROIA: Yeah, regular council meeting.
17 So we'll have a regular council meeting on the 12th,
18 then we will have Juneteenth so we won't have a
19 meeting there, and then we come back on the 26th and
20 we'll have both meetings, committee of the whole and
21 a regular council meeting, on the 26th. So is that
22 okay with everybody?

23 MR. MCCLEASTER: Sounds good.

24 MAYOR WILDER: You have a public hearing also
25 on the 26th.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. STROIA: Yes. That's true. Thank you.

MAYOR WILDER: That's at 6:45.

MR. YOUNG: There are three items on that.

MR. STROIA: Three items on the public hearing. Okay. So we'll have the public hearing, committee of the whole, and then the regular council meeting.

Okay. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

MRS. WERREN: Second.

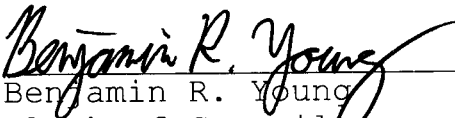
MR. STROIA: All in favor?

("Aye" in unison.)

MR. STROIA: Opposed? Adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.)

Attest:


Benjamin R. Young
Clerk of Council


Matthew Stroia
City Council President

