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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO

IN RE:)
)
NORTH CANTON)
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)
MEETING)
) TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
)

Transcript of Proceedings held before North Canton
City Council, taken by the undersigned, Shannon L.
Newhall, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the North
Canton Civic Center, 875 West Maple Street, North
Canton, Ohio, on Monday, the 27th day of June, 2022,
at 7:00 p.m.

PREMIER COURT REPORTING
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1 APPEARANCES:

2

Matthew Stroia, President

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Daryl Revoldt, Member

4

John Orr, Member

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David Metheney, Member

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Stephanie Werren, Member (Via Zoom)

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Jamie McCleaster, Member (Via Zoom)

8

Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor

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Patrick DeOrio, Director of Administration

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Catherine Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration

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Jina Alaback, Director of Finance

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Wayne Boyer, Director of Law

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Benjamin R. Young, Council Clerk

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1 MR. STROIA: I now call to order the
2 Committee of the Whole meeting for June 27th,
3 2022. The time is 7:00 p.m.

4 Ben, would you please call the roll?

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

6 MR. ORR: Here.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

8 MR. METHENEY: Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member McCleaster.

14 MR. MCCLEASTER: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

16 MS. WERREN: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick is absent.

18 Six present.

19 MR. STROIA: Okay. A motion to excuse
20 Member Weyrick?

21 MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

22 MR. METHENEY: Second.

23 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

24 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

25 MR. STROIA: Aye.

1 MR. ORR: Aye.

2 MR. METHENEY: Aye.

3 MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

4 MS. WERREN: Aye.

5 MR. STROIA: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. STROIA: Motion carries.

8 Okay. Moving on, Daryl, you are up
9 first.

10 MR. REVOLDT: We have a request from the
11 administration to tighten our abatement
12 language for weeds. If you will open your
13 packets, you have them. Ben has taken
14 Chapter 1739, he has marked it. And before I
15 kick it over to the administration, the basic
16 purpose of the administration's request is to
17 expedite the manner in which we bring
18 property owners on weeds and grass into more
19 rapid compliance.

20 Right now there is an extensive
21 notification process, and we give them
22 literally many weeks to address an issue. We
23 are going to take that down to 48 hours.
24 It's just that simple. And this goes hand in
25 hand with the code enforcement and building

1 maintenance efforts that are now currently
2 underway.

3 Patrick, I don't want to steal too much
4 of your thunder, but that's the essence of
5 it.

6 MR. DEORIO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may,
7 so in -- in dealing with this now for a
8 couple years, I first want to thank the
9 Council for allowing us to, you know, enter
10 into an agreement with legal -- for legal
11 services that are proving to be quite
12 advantageous to the City. And this is just
13 yet another example.

14 So in the past, we just couldn't seem to
15 find a way to cut through all the regulatory
16 legal notification issues in a timely manner.
17 And it put us in a position where roughly it
18 would -- if somebody didn't really want to
19 abate or mow their grass, it would probably
20 be somewhere in the order of four to five
21 weeks before we would be able to effectively
22 go in and cut it ourselves.

23 We do publish a notice in the newspaper
24 every April 1st. But it was all the other
25 steps that were necessary along the way, and

1 it just -- I think it was a matter of just
2 not thinking outside the box clearly or
3 having people that really understand the law
4 clearly.

5 And that's just a completely -- it's just
6 unacceptable. It's just unacceptable. There
7 are just so many properties. I spend working
8 now driving the City, doing some data
9 collection on various issues that we are
10 trying to think outside the box on, and this
11 is one of them that's just -- there are so
12 many properties that are just not being
13 maintained at all, as far as weed and grass
14 goes.

15 So this process is going to shorten it
16 to -- in essence, when we go, we are going to
17 knock on the door, talk to a person living
18 there, find out if they are an owner or a
19 tenant of the property, so that we know we
20 get to the right person, give them a notice
21 that, hey, we are coming back in 48 hours to
22 see if this has been taken care of.

23 If it has not been taken care of, then we
24 are going to give a notice -- a legal notice
25 at that time that you have 48 hours to comply

1 or we are cutting it, having it cut, and
2 you'll be sent an invoice for that cut. That
3 will be done by a contracted service.

4 And if you don't, you know, pay it, then
5 ultimately it's going to end up on your
6 county tax bill, where it will eventually get
7 paid. So that part is the same as what we
8 have always done. It's just it has taken --
9 before it has taken too long to get there.
10 It used to take even longer than that, but
11 we -- you know, several weeks is -- just
12 isn't cutting it. No pun intended. Sorry.
13 I just thought of that.

14 So that's just a little bit of tweak.
15 It's a 48-hour notice that we'll be back in
16 48 to see if it has been done. And then
17 after that, we'll be back to have it cut, and
18 schedule to -- and right now, you know,
19 because it takes so long, you know, our
20 nuisance officers are driving the same
21 properties, you know, on a -- almost like on
22 an every-other-day basis. It's a lot of
23 extra trips and wasted time to see if
24 somebody has complied, when have they
25 complied, and that kind of thing. So --

1 MR. REVOLDT: John, questions?

2 MR. ORR: Not at this time.

3 MR. REVOLDT: David.

4 MR. METHENEY: We are in Ohio, and it
5 rains in the spring. Is -- is three days,
6 four days --

7 MR. DEORIO: It's in essence -- yeah,
8 four days, I think -- by the time they are
9 getting the notice, their grass is already 8
10 inches tall.

11 MR. METHENEY: Right.

12 MR. DEORIO: So it already hasn't been
13 cut for a week or two --

14 MR. METHENEY: Right.

15 MR. DEORIO: -- by the time it gets our
16 notice. So I don't really feel a lot of -- a
17 need to give them more than that. I think
18 that's more than generous.

19 MR. METHENEY: That would be my only
20 concern is -- is getting it done. I own
21 rental property, and if the -- if the
22 contractor is supposed to cut the grass,
23 bails, goes out of business, it might take
24 more than two or three days to find a
25 replacement. But a house, springtime -- I

1 don't know. I -- that's my only concern.

2 MR. DEORIO: Well, I think what we end up
3 doing is -- Dave, is just keep carving
4 exceptions into it.

5 MR. METHENEY: I don't want to carve
6 exceptions.

7 MR. DEORIO: And it's, you know, "my
8 contractor is unavailable." You know, we
9 hear that one a lot. "I don't even have a
10 contractor." "My lawn mower won't start."
11 It's just one thing after another.

12 I mean, it's the responsibility of a
13 homeowner. You just have to take care of
14 your property. There are people in this
15 community that take care of their property,
16 and it's really a disservice to them that
17 we're allowing this to go on.

18 MR. METHENEY: So we are four days and
19 the City will cut it?

20 MR. DEORIO: Pardon me?

21 MR. METHENEY: Four days, the City will
22 cut it?

23 MR. DEORIO: Four days and the City will
24 authorize a contractor to come in and cut it.

25 MR. METHENEY: If the contractor is

1 authorized and the property gets cut, do
2 we -- does the City still pay the contractor?

3 MR. DEORIO: City will still bill them,
4 bill the homeowner for the service. If the
5 contractor is billing us, we are billing
6 them.

7 MR. METHENEY: Okay.

8 MR. DEORIO: Because these contractors
9 that we have to have an arrangement with are
10 saying that we need to have City services
11 first. I got to put my private clients to
12 the side --

13 MR. METHENEY: Right.

14 MR. DEORIO: -- because, you know, we
15 are -- we are asking it be done. Okay? We
16 don't want you in a week or two weeks. We
17 want you now, today.

18 MR. METHENEY: Okay. Whether they
19 provide the service or not, I understand.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. Stroia.

21 MR. STROIA: I'm good.

22 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. McCleaster.

23 MR. MCCLEASTER: No, sir, no comments.

24 MR. REVOLDT: Mrs. Werren.

25 MS. WERREN: Same. Same.

1 MR. REVOLDT: Very good. All right. If
2 you look at the ordinance that's drafted, it
3 is absent one provision, and that is an
4 emergency clause. If we were to give this
5 three readings, it would go into 30 days
6 effective after that signature -- after the
7 Mayor's signature. We'll be -- we'll be
8 probably into September.

9 So what I'm going to propose we do is
10 that I'll ask for a vote to move this to
11 Committee -- or to the regular Council
12 meeting for next Monday night with an
13 emergency clause.

14 MR. DEORIO: Next Monday would be July
15 11th.

16 MR. REVOLDT: Or excuse me.

17 MR. ORR: Next meeting is --

18 MR. REVOLDT: Next meeting is July 11th.

19 MR. ORR: Can our contractor do that,
20 Pat? Can our contractor be available that
21 soon?

22 MR. DEORIO: Yeah.

23 MR. ORR: Okay.

24 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. All right. So I'll
25 make a motion that we move this to the agenda

1 at our next Council meeting on July 11th.

2 There is the motion.

3 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

4 MR. REVOLDT: All in favor?

5 MR. STROIA: Aye.

6 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

7 MR. ORR: Aye.

8 MR. METHENEY: Aye.

9 MS. WERREN: Aye.

10 MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

11 MR. REVOLDT: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. REVOLDT: Done.

14 MR. STROIA: Motion carries.

15 David, you are up next.

16 MR. METHENEY: Okay. So the
17 administration has -- let me pull it up. The
18 administration has negotiated with the water
19 treatment plant employees, and they have come
20 to an agreement on -- bear with me. It's the
21 wrong page. There it is.

22 MR. REVOLDT: I've got a paper.

23 MR. METHENEY: Nope. I have got it
24 highlighted. No, it's not. There it is.
25 I'm good now. Thank you.

1 So with the Utility Workers Union of
2 America, Local 605, and that's the water
3 plant. I believe there are six individuals
4 there.

5 One of the great things about this is
6 they started negotiations somewhat early, but
7 the process went very well. And it went well
8 because of communication and relationship
9 that administration has with the employees
10 there.

11 As with other groups, they have
12 negotiated the benefit of vacation time on a
13 bi-weekly basis instead of annual, so it
14 accrues as they work throughout the year.
15 The vacation time payout for those hours
16 accrued over two weeks will be paid out on a
17 quarterly basis. The -- also negotiated for
18 these employees, a uniform allowance, which
19 in their area of work is very important. And
20 I think that is a \$300 a year uniform
21 allowance.

22 And then there is also the -- the wage
23 increase which is always part of the
24 negotiation. And they negotiated a 3 percent
25 wage increase over the next three years,

1 which is consistent with other groups that we
2 have got.

3 The neat thing about their increase
4 here -- and kudos to administration for
5 realizing the value of certificates and
6 additional education. But those that carry a
7 full chemistry or microbiology lab
8 certification will also be eligible for a pay
9 increase, as long as those are current and
10 valid.

11 The next thing that I want to bring up is
12 the labor management committee that they are
13 going to participate in. And this is part of
14 the communication side that builds that trust
15 in the relationship between management and
16 the employees. And I think that this is
17 going to be a valuable asset to continuing
18 that -- that relationship and keeping it
19 strong.

20 Mr. DeOrio, Ms. Alaback, anything else
21 you would like to add? Ms. Farina?

22 MR. DEORIO: All set.

23 MR. METHENEY: Okay. Any questions from
24 Council?

25 MR. STROIA: Nope.

1 MR. METHENEY: Hearing none, I would make
2 a motion that we move this to our next
3 Council meeting.

4 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt will second.

5 MR. METHENEY: All those in favor?

6 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

7 MR. STROIA: Aye.

8 MR. ORR: Aye.

9 MR. METHENEY: Aye.

10 MS. WERREN: Aye.

11 MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

12 MR. METHENEY: I didn't hear Jamie.

13 MR. MCCLEASTER: I responded to "aye."

14 MR. METHENEY: Okay. Thank you. All
15 those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. METHENEY: Okay. Motion carries.

18 MR. STROIA: Okay. Motion to adjourn the
19 Committee of the Whole meeting.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

21 MR. METHENEY: Second.

22 MS. WERREN: Werren, second.

23 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

24 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

25 MR. STROIA: Aye.

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MR. ORR: Aye.

MR. METHENEY: Aye.

MS. WERREN: Aye.

MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

MR. STROIA: All right. Motion carries.

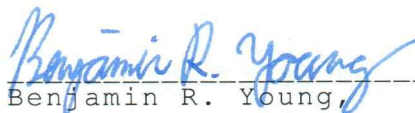
Adjourned.

(This proceeding adjourned at 7:13 p.m.)

22 ATTEST:

23 

24 _____
25 Matthew Stroia,
Council President



_____ Benjamin R. Young,
Council Clerk

C E R T I F I C A T E

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO,)
)
STARK COUNTY.)

I, Shannon L. Newhall, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within testimony so given was by me reduced to Stenotype, afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given.

I further certify that this proceeding was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I further certify that I am not a relative of, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in this action.

I do further certify that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Canton, Ohio, this 3rd day of July, 2022.

Shannon Newhall

Shannon L. Newhall, Notary Public
My commission expires February 2, 2023.

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