

CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
AUGUST 28, 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, August 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

- - - - -

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
- Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration
- Jim Bertovich, Assistant Director of Finance
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Liam Ott, Assistant Clerk of Council

- - - - -

1 MR. STROIA: Okay. I now call to order the
2 city council meeting of August 28, 2023. The time is
3 7 p.m.

4 Opening prayer. Daryl.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Please rise for the prayer and
6 remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 Let us bow our heads.

8 Tonight, Almighty God, we give thanks for our
9 children. We are grateful for the safe opening of
10 our schools. We humbly ask you guard and guide them
11 through the year. Instill in them a lifelong love
12 for learning, discernment, and wisdom. And may your
13 countenance shine upon their teachers. Give them
14 unflagging enthusiasm, devotion, and patience as they
15 shape the young lives of our community.

16 Amen.

17 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

18 MR. STROIA: All right. Liam, will you
19 please call the roll.

20 MR. OTT: Member Metheney.

21 MR. METHENEY: Here.

22 MR. OTT: Member Werren.

23 MRS. WERREN: Here.

24 MR. OTT: Member McCleaster.

25 MR. MCCLEASTER: Here.

1 MR. OTT: Member Weyrick.

2 MS. WEYRICK: Here.

3 MR. OTT: Member Stroia.

4 MR. STROIA: Here.

5 MR. OTT: Member Revoldt.

6 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

7 MR. OTT: Member Orr.

8 MR. ORR: Here.

9 MR. OTT: Seven present.

10 MR. STROIA: All right. Can I have a motion
11 and a second to approve as presented codification
12 updates of Chapters 907, 1107, 1136, 1153, 1703, and
13 1739.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

15 MR. METHENEY: Second.

16 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

17 ("Aye" in unison.)

18 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

19 Okay. At this time, members wishing to
20 address city council may do so. Each speaker will be
21 given five minutes. Comments shall be limited to
22 legislative items appearing on the agenda tonight
23 only. The rules for speaking and the speaker's time
24 will appear on the screens. This will serve as the
25 only warning for everyone in attendance. Any

1 violations of the rules will result in ejection from
2 the premises.

3 Anyone wishing to address council tonight on
4 legislative items only may do so.

5 Okay. Final call to address council tonight.

6 Okay. Moving on to new business. Liam, will
7 you please read the title of Ordinance 70-2023.

8 MR. OTT: An ordinance amending Chapter 703,
9 Registration of Rental Units, of the codified
10 ordinances of the City of North Canton to expand
11 registration requirements to all rental units in the
12 city, regardless of building size.

13 MR. STROIA: I'm going to excuse myself from
14 this but I will come back.

15 (Mr. Stroia leaving room.)

16 MR. REVOLDT: All right. We have our first
17 reading of expansion of the rental registration. I
18 think we discussed this last Monday night. Clerk had
19 compiled an analysis of the program. I think the
20 general consensus was it had been successful, and as
21 committed a year ago, we're now prepared to extend
22 this to all rental units in the community.

23 I would, just before we cast the first vote
24 on this, I ask the administration if it would like to
25 have a comment for the Record at this time.

1 MR. DEORIO: No.

2 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Fair enough.

3 Then the minutes should reflect that Member
4 Stroia has left the room. I will make a motion that
5 we adopt the first reading of Ordinance 70-2023.

6 MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

7 MRS. WERREN: All in favor?

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. REVOLDT: Opposed? Very good.

10 MR. MCCLEASTER: Awesome.

11 MRS. WERREN: If someone will get Matt.

12 MR. REVOLDT: I will get him.

13 (Mr. Stroia returning.)

14 MR. STROIA: All right. Thank you.

15 MR. REVOLDT: We did read this, did we not?
16 The motion. We adopted, but did we read it?

17 MR. DEORIO: It was read.

18 MAYOR WILDER: It was read.

19 MR. DEORIO: Liam butchered it pretty good.

20 MR. STROIA: Liam, will you please read the
21 title of Ordinance 76-2023.

22 MR. OTT: An ordinance amending Chapter 155,
23 Personnel Regulations, specifically Subsection
24 155.04(f). Full-Time Schedule of Compensation, Item
25 Administrative Specialist, of the codified ordinances

1 of the City of North Canton, to reclassify the
2 administrative specialist position from hourly to
3 salary in accordance with Federal Fair Labor
4 Standards Act provisions.

5 MR. STROIA: Okay. David.

6 MR. METHENEY: Okay. So currently the
7 administrative assistant is paid an hourly rate up
8 to --

9 MAYOR WILDER: Specialist.

10 MR. METHENEY: Specialist. Thank you. -- is
11 paid up to an hourly rate of 31.35. That is going to
12 go to an exempt position with a salary of up to
13 65,208. So no one is getting a pay increase, as the
14 administration mentioned last week; this is just
15 changing it from an hourly rate to a salaried
16 position.

17 Questions? Comments? Any concerns?

18 MR. MCCLEASTER: No.

19 MR. METHENEY: I'd like to make a motion that
20 we adopt the first reading of Ordinance 70-2023.

21 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

22 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

23 ("Aye" in unison.)

24 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

25 Okay. Can I have a motion and a second to

1 suspend Council Rule 23 to allow for consideration of
2 Ordinance 79-2023 without community report.

3 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

4 MRS. WERREN: Second.

5 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

6 ("Aye" in unison.)

7 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

8 Liam, will you please read the title of
9 79-2023.

10 MR. OTT: An ordinance authorizing the
11 assessment of costs against the property known as
12 1646 Westfield Avenue, Southwest, North Canton, Ohio
13 44709 for abatement actions taken thereat by the City
14 of North Canton, and declaring the same to be an
15 emergency.

16 MR. STROIA: Okay. John.

17 MR. ORR: Well, this basically is the final
18 step to attach the lien on the property so we can get
19 our money. And probably just got billed for it, so
20 but get our money that way.

21 Any questions? That's the Furlong property.

22 MR. DEORIO: For those that may be -- need
23 updated what it was, that this particular property at
24 1646 had three structures on it that had been vacant
25 for, you know, three decades. And as you know,

1 council is very gracious and allows us to redefine
2 the process, the rules, the notice requirements, all
3 this stuff, get together with our legal department
4 and push it forward. So we did the demolition of
5 that because the property owner did not avail
6 themselves of the opportunity to do so. Given plenty
7 of opportunity by the Court. And so then when that
8 time passed that we received authorization from the
9 Court to move forward with those demolitions we did
10 that and this now allows us to assess those costs
11 against those parcels and those will appear on the --
12 their tax duplicate. When they get their tax
13 duplicate, they'll have to pay. If they don't,
14 they'll be in arrears on their taxes and subject to
15 the processes that that entails. So --

16 MR. ORR: So I'll make a motion we -- on
17 Ordinance 79-2023. I'll go ahead and move.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Move we adopt the first
19 reading.

20 MR. ORR: Second.

21 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds. I don't know if
22 you can second your own, can we?

23 MR. REVOLDT: I'll second. He moved, I'll
24 second.

25 MR. ORR: Okay.

1 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

2 ("Aye" in unison.)

3 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

4 Can I have a motion and a second to suspend
5 the rules of council requiring three readings.

6 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

7 MRS. WERREN: Second.

8 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

9 ("Aye" in unison.)

10 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

11 And can I have a motion and a second to adopt
12 Ordinance 79-2023 under suspension of the rules.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

14 MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

15 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

16 ("Aye" in unison.)

17 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

18 Okay. Department reports. Patrick.

19 MR. DEORIO: No report.

20 MR. STROIA: Okay. Jim.

21 MR. BERTOVICH: Pretty much the same as last
22 week. We're working on the budget, so as soon as we
23 get that and start looking over it and Patrick and
24 the administration, I think we'll come to council. I
25 think Jina sent out the schedule of meetings with you

1 guys, so we'll be working on that for the next couple
2 weeks. So that's my report.

3 MR. STROIA: Look forward to it. Thank you.
4 Mayor.

5 MAYOR WILDER: Yes. Thank you.

6 As Daryl alluded to, we had our two new
7 schools open up, or had our ribbon cuttings on
8 Saturday for the North Canton Primary School and the
9 North Canton Intermediate School, and I had the
10 opportunity to read a proclamation in support of
11 those grand openings. And I alluded -- I alluded
12 back to 1835 when the first log cabin school was
13 built for North Canton. And here we are today.

14 I would estimate that probably at least 5- to
15 600 people attended both of the ribbon cuttings and I
16 received nothing but compliments from the community
17 who had compliments, okay, about the schools opening
18 up. But I'd like to save my few minutes with our
19 council members who also attended and I'll let each
20 one comment on the schools and their -- their awards.

21 So it was a great day. It was sunny, it was
22 warm, and there was just a lot of excitement. And to
23 have these state-of-the-art schools now hopefully
24 that will be here for a long time, and the boys and
25 girls were just so excited to be in their new school.

1 And if you have an opportunity, please take a tour
2 because they are great additions to the education
3 of -- of our school-age children.

4 So thank you, and that's all I have for right
5 now. I will give my time to our council members to
6 comment on it. Thank you.

7 MR. STROIA: Thank you.

8 Liam.

9 MR. OTT: We have nothing to report.

10 MR. STROIA: Okay. Let's move on.

11 Ward 1. Jamie.

12 MR. MCCLEASTER: All right. Well, I will
13 pick up right where the mayor left off because on
14 Saturday I had the opportunity to join the mayor, as
15 well as Matt and Christina, at the grand opening and
16 ribbon cutting of both of these schools, and, of
17 course, big shout-out to the North Canton Primary
18 School, which is in Ward 1, which is pretty exciting,
19 and going over to the intermediate school, which is
20 where my son will be attending, and I'm blown away
21 and darn near speechless at how awesome these
22 buildings are. So I just want to send a big
23 shout-out and congratulations to the North Canton
24 City Schools and the board, as well as Superintendent
25 Jeff Wendorf. And I'll lead off with what he said at

1 the opening of each school: It's a great day to be a
2 Viking. And certainly the little ones that get to go
3 into those schools. So what a great opportunity to
4 go see those. And like the mayor said, if you
5 haven't an opportunity to go see them, check it out.

6 That's it.

7 MR. STROIA: Okay. Thank you.

8 David. Ward 2.

9 MR. METHENEY: I do not have a report this
10 week.

11 MR. STROIA: Stephanie. Ward 3.

12 MRS. WERREN: I wasn't able to be here this
13 weekend, but I was with the mayor and a few others
14 this summer. And at that point you're like, Okay,
15 time's ticking. I hope you're going to get it done.
16 But the little lockers were in place and the little
17 pods that they had were just so neat for the
18 collective and collaborative work that they were
19 going to be doing. Just thinking where my kids had
20 gone to elementary, and that was in Canton city, but
21 just the changes in what they're doing and the way
22 they're learning is just so neat. I'm thrilled they
23 were able to do it, and I have a niece that started
24 today, and some friends that said one of the reasons
25 that they chose North Canton was, one, Dogwood Pool,

1 they actually said that, and the schools. So that
2 was exciting. Yeah, they actually quit Congress Lake
3 and were, like, we want to be at Dogwood. So here we
4 go. That's it.

5 MR. STROIA: All right. Thank you.

6 John. Ward 4.

7 MR. ORR: Ward 4. I talked to a lot of
8 residents on Salway about the stop sign. The
9 three-way stop they took down. And when you're
10 talking to your residents, they're educated people
11 and they're willing to listen. And I think we --
12 it's down. And they're going to have to change their
13 ways on driving down there. I was there when a
14 police officer was there monitoring traffic, and in a
15 half hour -- well, it was about a half hour one time
16 and 15 minutes the other time, they go in there and
17 observe the traffic and he issued one warning. One
18 person went over 35 miles an hour. So it's 25, but,
19 you know, 25 means 35, apparently, in our -- in our
20 driving.

21 Then I talked to a couple residents south of
22 Everhard on Salway. And there's some curb work I
23 talked to Patrick about, and it's asphalt curbing and
24 we just purchased a machine so they can practice all
25 they want over there. And it does need some cleanup.

1 Also on Salway -- busy street -- what do we
2 know about the netting that's up, it's still up. Is
3 it still from Arrowhead? Is there still some netting
4 left?

5 MR. DEORIO: To my knowledge, there was never
6 netting.

7 MR. ORR: I thought there had been. No?
8 It's about \$500,000, something like that?

9 MR. DEORIO: I had a quote for that.

10 MR. ORR: Is there any way we can look at
11 maybe cleaning out some of that old stuff there and
12 maybe plant some fast-growing trees or fast-growing
13 evergreens or something there that would -- there are
14 about four houses across the street that have been
15 getting hit, and numerous people have gotten buckets
16 of golf balls that they sell and stuff of that
17 nature, but I think that might be something to look
18 into.

19 MR. DEORIO: Well, I will say that I have
20 looked into it. You know, I'm not trying to, you
21 know, say that I don't want to do something, but, you
22 know, I've spent time there watching it over the
23 years and the balls that are making it over there
24 are -- are not like line drive shots because there's
25 a lot of low branches, there's a lot of low trees.

1 The stuff that's making it over there has got height
2 on it that's well in excess of where a tree could
3 grow reasonably, even a fast-growing one. If you put
4 some poplars out there, which grow the fastest,
5 you're looking 15, 20 years down the road before they
6 effectively can address a screen for that.

7 MR. ORR: Yeah. Because with the number of
8 golf courses closing and stuff, we're not getting the
9 country clubber-type golfer who's usually a little
10 bit better than the amateurs that go out there on the
11 course and stuff.

12 MR. STROIA: What hole is that?

13 MR. ORR: There's probably two holes. I'm
14 not sure. I haven't golfed there for a while.

15 MR. STROIA: Okay. All right. Thank you,
16 John.

17 Daryl.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Well, I'd like to quote David
19 Metheney tonight. No report.

20 MR. STROIA: All right. Christina.

21 MS. WEYRICK: Just turned in to say
22 congratulations to the schools. As Jamie mentioned
23 and the mayor said, I was able to attend ribbon
24 cuttings. The crowds were incredible. The
25 excitement. It was just an awesome day. And I

1 think, like, I don't know, I don't know if I was
2 making it up but I feel like there was some relief on
3 Tim Walker's face. Like, so well deserved.

4 And then I think the best part for me was
5 just seeing these teachers in their classrooms. Like
6 talking to the art teacher who said I've been
7 teaching from a cart for like eight years and she now
8 has two kilns. And I was just like, What's
9 happening. I'm so proud of them and the work that
10 they did and that was just so cool to see.

11 That's all.

12 MR. STROIA: Thank you. My turn.

13 Yeah, I'll piggyback on all the compliments
14 for the school. Walking through those buildings,
15 it's so well planned out and organized. And just to
16 see the look on everybody's faces, from the kids to
17 the teachers to the administration and the school
18 board, it's just made me feel proud of the community.
19 So very excited for them.

20 That's all I have. Buy and support local.

21 MAYOR WILDER: Matthew.

22 MR. STROIA: Yeah.

23 MAYOR WILDER: May I add one comment?

24 MR. STROIA: Sure.

25 MAYOR WILDER: I wanted to make sure we thank

1 the people again on Wise, Northeast. That finished
2 blacktop was put on and it really looks beautiful
3 over there. Again, thank you to all the residents
4 for their patience during that development. And also
5 down on Valley Boulevard -- is it Valley Drive? I
6 forget. Valley Boulevard?

7 CHIEF KEMP: Drive.

8 MAYOR WILDER: All the gutter or curbing
9 that's been going on down there. Again, appreciate
10 the patience by all the residents who, you know, are
11 inconvenienced at times when the apron to their
12 driveway is torn up or something like that. But I
13 just want to make a comment again, thanks to the
14 residents for allowing us to get the work done and
15 their patience with it. It looks good. Thank you.

16 MR. STROIA: I got to walk down with Aidan
17 and my wife yesterday. It's incredible. It's so --
18 it's all three of us could walk side by side down the
19 sidewalk. It looks great. Yeah.

20 Okay. Final call for new business.

21 MR. REVOLDT: We had a couple late arrivals.
22 Do each of you wish to speak to the council?

23 MS. GRIFFITH: I was actually just coming to
24 educate myself a little bit and I'm excited for the
25 new schools and development in the town. And maybe

1 this was already addressed so I apologize if it was
2 redundant.

3 This might sound a little strange, but I was
4 kind of wondering if there is a city arborist or
5 anybody who works with some of the older trees. I
6 recently took my kids, I had a chance to go to
7 Savannah and see a live oak in that area and I just
8 think that there could be some importance to the
9 older trees in the city if they are able to be
10 preserved and, of course, not like a harm for
11 anybody.

12 I just noticed, in picking up my son from the
13 middle school today, that the giant old tree at I
14 think it's Weckford Park? Sorry if I mangled that,
15 but it was gone but I didn't know if it was storm
16 damage or what.

17 MR. DEORIO: Yes.

18 MS. GRIFFITH: It was? Okay. And that makes
19 me feel better. But I just wanted to ask if there
20 was anything in the city to help preserve some of the
21 older trees because I think those are also important
22 for a city with the history of the place.

23 MRS. WERREN: Would you do me a favor? Would
24 you say your name and address too.

25 MS. GRIFFITH: My name is Sara Griffith, and

1 I live over on West Park right over by the park. So
2 321 West Park Road, Northwest, which is a lovely
3 park.

4 That's it.

5 MR. STROIA: All right. Thank you.

6 Okay. Moving on to the meetings calendar, we
7 will have no meeting on September 4 due to Labor Day.
8 September 11 we're going to have a committee of the
9 whole and a regular city council. September 18 we'll
10 have a committee of the whole, and September 25 a
11 regular city council meeting.

12 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

14 MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

15 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

16 ("Aye" in unison.)


17 MR. STROIA: Opposed? Motion carries.

18 - - - - -

19 (Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.)

20 - - - - -

21
22 Attest:

23 
24 Benjamin R. Young
25 Clerk of Council


Matthew Stroia
City Council President

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
)SS
STARK COUNTY)

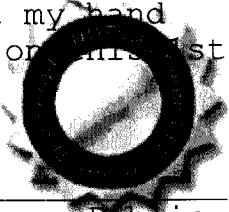
I, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that this meeting was by me reduced to Stenotype and afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription.

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

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in the event of 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, on the 1st day of September, 2023.



Laurie Maryl Jonas

Laurie Maryl Jonas, RMR & Notary Public.
My commission expires January 6, 2027.