

Adopted
2-16-2021

NORTH COLLEGE HILL CITY COUNCIL
Minutes for Virtual NCH Council Meeting, February 1, 2021, 7:00 pm

Persons wishing to address Council prior to its dealing with current legislation may do so by registering with the Clerk of Council. Please provide to the Clerk, your name, address and the issue you wish to discuss.

Prayer
Call to Order 7:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bailey	Absent	Ms. Blythe	Present	Ms. Underwood	Present	Mr. Miller Novak	Present	
Ms. Zorb	Present	Ms. Hartman	Present	Ms. Anderson	Present	6 Present		

Mr. Miller Novak moves to excuse Ms. Bailey, Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0

AGENDA: Ms. Zorb moves to adopt the agenda. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0 to adopt.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Anderson moves to adopt the 01-19-2021 and 01-25-2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Zorb 2nd. Motion to adopt passes 6-0.

Communications U.S. 2020 Census NCH Recognition, Januarys Mayor’s Court Report. Ms. Zorb asked if the U.S. Census gave any kind of report or statistics, Dewald respond that it did not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance: Ms. Zorb reports. Not met since last meeting. Next meeting February 8, 2021
City Community and Development & Recreation: Ms. Anderson reports. Not met since last meeting. Next meeting February 8, 2021

Public Safety: Ms. Underwood reports. They met January 25 at 7:30 pm. Fire levy and Chief Fels presentation was discussed in great length and great detail. Ms. Underwood would like to thank Chief Fels for his time and detailed information. Plan to have a special meeting. Next meeting February 22 @ 7:30 pm.

Rules & Public Policy: Last meeting was January 25 @ 6:30 pm.

- Discussed tonight’s legislation for Prospect Place. Much to discuss, moved to council floor for more discussion.
- Discussed Surface Pro Legislation and she will follow up on that.
- M. Miller-Novak spoke about legislative procedure, red line documents and stale legislation. Significant detail and how to communicate better with the Law Director. Suggested at the committee we develop some do’s and don’ts when we are dealing with the Law Director. We are going to create a process to communicate with the Law Director and expect him to follow as well

AD Hock Reports:

- Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Zorb reports; Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov Husted have unveiled a plan of more than 1 billion dollars targeted to strengthen and grow Ohio communities’ small businesses. Seeing how business have suffered dearly during this pandemic, it sounds like good news. Hopefully some of our busines can apply for the grant and get some financial help
- CIC, Ms. Underwood reports; met last week. A gentleman presented a potential development coming to NCH for single family homes and to improve our downtown area with regard to businesses. CIC wants to encourage homeownership in NCH with the pride that comes from being a homeowner.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor’s report: She would like to add to the statement of Ms. Zorb and Ms. Underwood regarding Covid relief funds. Ms. Stewart, North College Hill business owner was a recipient of Covid relief funds for her dance studio. Also, adding to what Ms. Underwood reported, CIC and Planning Commission will have a joint meeting to see what ideas they can come up with for the betterment of the city. She is looking forward that, pulling their ideas together.

Mayor's Report cont.

In regards to the veto

Email for the Fire Chief for the Fire Levy; firelevy2021@northcollegehill.org is set up for citizens who want to ask questions or get information in regards to the fire levy. Please use this email, it will go directly to the Fire Chief and he can answer your questions or concerns.

City Administrator report: Not present, no report.

Law Director Report: No report.

Finance Director Report: No report.

Call of Members:

Ms. Blythe: Inquires about a report from Fire Chief Fels.

Regarding Prospect Place; Is getting a loan for Prospect Place the best way to go especially with street levy money for street repairs. Why is Prospect Place a priority over other streets and why are requesting a loan? Why are we requesting a loan to repair this street and no other street? What are the rules and stipulation to determine the priority for street repair? Is getting a loan for this the best way to go about. Why isn't levy money being used?

Ms. Underwood: Chief Fels sent the report to Ms. Underwood on January 25. She did not realize it had not been sent to all of Council. (Mayor Nichols had it available and sent to all of council). Ms. Underwood encourages Council to contact the Fire Chief questions and concerns she encourages one on one conversations with him. She heralds his efforts for writing grants for the fire department and from those grants received several key pieces of equipment for the fire department. He works very hard and is a very good steward of the resources provided to him.

Mr. Miller-Novak: Nothing to report

Ms. Zorb: Kudos to clerk of council for keeping stellar minutes. Many Thanks. Ms. Underwood piggy backs on Ms. Zorb's comments on the detailed minutes of the January 25 meeting and all minutes and appreciates the hard work from Ms. Dewald.

Ms. Hartman: Nothing to report

Ms. Anderson: The North College Hill Food Pantry is in need of Kroger grocery bags. Ms. Zorb confirms that either plastic or paper are in need and offers them to Ms. Anderson. Ms. Anderson volunteers to pick up any bags and get them up to the pantry.

Pres. Graver: Wanted to reflect on the position and the salary range of the Law Director. Was disheartened that after all the meetings, special meetings and executive sessions and work put into that, Mr. Miller-Novak on the time he spent negotiating with Mr. Deters, we had an opportunity there to want to see change and be better. After all that work, we went back to the way things used to be. He hopes we continue to push forward and not settle. Ms. Underwood comments that Mr. Miller-Novak did take time talking to the committee about how as a council we can most effectively communicate with our Law Director, who is also our attorney. This is something the rules and Public Policy is going to follow up on and work with Mr. Deters to hopefully make thing better.

Legislation:

First Reading: Resolution 07-2021 A Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the City of North College Hill on behalf of the State of Ohio (the borrower) to reimburse its _____ Fund for the PROSPECT PLACE improvements, CB36X with the proceeds of Tax-exempt debt of the State of Ohio. Ms. Underwood asks for discussion. Ms. Zorb to reiterate what Ms. Blythe said and ask why Prospect Place is taking a priority. Why take out a loan and not put it in the order of prioritizing streets that are need of repair. Mayor Nichols said that there is a water issue on Prospect Place. After a conversation with Mr. Mosby, she reports that the amount of money that they had was enough to cover that street. She feels that Mr. Mosby could better answer why it has to be a loan. The water issue makes it more of a priority to get it taken care of.

Discussion of Res. 07-2021 cont.

Ms. Blythe asks what are the rules or the stipulations that determine the priority for street repairs. Mayor Nichols says she is not exactly sure how it is determined. They do go through and survey the streets that need to be done. She doesn't remember in what order but it is for a couple of years. Ms. Hall said there are multiple factors, one is the deterioration of the road as well as other factors. Engineers survey the street and they come up with a list and based on funding options streets are prioritized that way. This was an opportunity to utilize the interest free loan, allowing us to free up some of the money that we have in the levy fund to be able to complete the projects that we have scheduled for 2021 going out into 2022 as well. Usually, cities go about it this way so that we are not utilizing all of our funds at once, we can still take on projects and pay over time and not exhausting all of our funds. It's a way to show we are fiscally responsible to money that we've been entrusted. Ms. Blythe asks of Ms. Hall; at the last meeting it was mentioned we would be using levy funds to pay off the loan. How will we be paying on his 20-year loan? The loan would be repaid with levy money. Street repairs do not come out of general fund money.

Second Reading: Resolution 04-2021 A resolution authorizing city of North College Hill to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation improvement program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

Second Reading: Resolution 05-2021, A resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt contracts awarded in 2021 and declaring an emergency.


First Reading: Ordinance 01-2021, An ordinance to establish a North College Hill Home Buyers Assistance Fund titled The Down Payment Assistance Fund Numbered 206.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Zorb asks of Mayor Nichols her intent in regards to her veto of the Law Directors line item, does she want the salary range put back into legislation? Mayor Nichols says her feelings are similar to Pres. Graver regarding the time that was put in to it. If you want different things you have to do things to lead up to that. Council said they want different things from Mr. Deters, but the actions for that were not there. Legislation states there is a range of salary but there was no pay range in the ordinance. Ms. Zorb asks the mayor to clarify, is your issue is that there is no range or the line on the document should be stricken out also. It is not necessarily that there is no range, she just believes that there should be some other type of agreement. There should be a range for the work that is done. If one range is \$30,000 to \$50,000 these are the things that that salary covers. Or the range of work to do in the \$50,00 to \$60,000 salary range. She feels that opportunity should have been granted to do the job description within the \$30,000-\$60,000. It's not that the portion is there, the issue for her, she doesn't believe the opportunity was given for the job description to change for us to expect or get different results. Ms. Zorb said she had a conversation with Mr. Deters about a similar topic, if there is a veto of a line item and council does nothing with the veto, it goes back to the last past document. With that said, if council does nothing about the current veto his salary goes back to the last past document which is the same exact dollar amount that's in there now. Mayor Nichols hope that council would do something and not do anything. Ms. Zorb was hoping for accountability, but that never happened either. Discussion about accountability versus no accountability in the document such as he/she should be compensated for his or he services instead of shall. There was no more discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Underwood moved to adjourn. Ms. Anderson 2nd. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0



Mary Dewald, Clerk of Council



Mike Graver, President of Council