

CITY OF TOLEDO

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What Happened in the Toledo City Council Meeting of 2-11-20

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON PRESENTS:

R-018-20 Recognize Weldon Douthitt.

My Position: Support.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

COUNCILMAN DELANEY PRESENTS:

R-045-20 Recognize Toledo Police Officers Balon and Rausch.

My Position: Support.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

SECOND READING ITEMS:

O-002-20 Amending the Toledo Municipal Code by enacting a new Chapter 1312, Registration of Persons, Firms or Corporations in the General Contracting and Interiors Industry.

My Position: Held Pending Final Input From Additional Committee Hearing.

Two hearings were held and numerous discussions have taken place during scheduled meetings of City Council on the ordinance. Several emails and letters for and against this proposed law have been received. Misinformation and misunderstandings abound. Finding truth and clarity for all who will be impacted are imperatives being sought prior to action being taken. The goal of the legislation is to ensure that only trained and qualified employees are hired by contractors doing construction in the general contracting and interiors industry. Additionally, there does not appear to be any real adverse effects on minority contractors. However, that is still under debate.

Ordinance placed into the Regional Growth, Development & Small Business Enterprise Committee at the Toledo City Council Meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-031-20 Authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement establishing the Lucas County 911 Regional Council of Government to organize and operate a Public Safety Answering Point.

My Position: Support.

This merger and consolidation will put all political subdivisions into one 911 operation.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-037-20 Authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of \$1,225,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the repair, reconstruction and professional design services of Levis Square Park (Phase 2); authorizing the mayor to accept bids and award contracts necessary to complete said project(s).

My Position: Support.

Reconstruction of Levis Square Park is necessary and underway. Phase 2 involves utility connections, drainage structures and planting beds, etc. which need to be brought up to current standards. The park has suffered decline since its construction in the 1970's.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-039-20 Approving the proposal of Niki Toledo for the expansion of their retail establishment within the Toledo Enterprise Zone; making certain findings and determinations in connection therewith; approving and authorizing the execution of an agreement and other documents, which grant real property tax exemptions.

My Position: Held Pending Further Debate.

Considerable debate has taken place over the necessity of granting property tax exemption for this redevelopment of the former Elder Beerman property. Washington Local Schools already approved it on January 15, 2020. The City of Toledo will receive \$41,000 per year in return on investment in new income tax revenue. The total abatement over 15 years is \$978,000. Without the abatement the project will not be done and the property will continue sitting vacant. This is the same deal that Westgate was given when Costco was built. Although I am philosophically opposed to tax abatement, it has merit in some circumstances from a business standpoint, but should be monitored carefully and applied sparingly. Unfortunately, the precedent for this area has been set. Avoiding tax abatement agreements like this in the

future should be a goal. Promising tax abatement before Council has a chance to weigh in on it is too late if the agreement has already been made before it comes to the legislative body. Many believe tax abatement was totally unnecessary in this case.

Ordinance held at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-040-20 Authorizing the mayor to enter, execute and deliver a Purchase Agreement and other needed instruments for the sale and conveyance of 11.89 acres in the southern portion of Willy's Park for \$75,000 to the Woodlawn Cemetery Historical Association. Inc.; authorizing the deposit of net sale proceeds; making certain findings with respect thereto; waiving the notice and competitive bidding provisions of T.M.C. 187.19 the sale and conveyance of 11.89 acres in the southern portion of Willy's Park for \$75,000 to the Woodlawn Cemetery Historical Association. Inc.; authorizing the deposit of net sale proceeds; making certain findings with respect thereto; waiving the notice and competitive bidding provisions of T.M.C. 187.19.

My Position: Support.

There is an effort underfoot to earmark this money specifically for Willys Park maintenance. The sale itself is for waterbodies restoration that will improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat in the Ottawa Park watershed. This acreage will not be used for burials.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-042-20 Authorizing customer work agreements with The Toledo Edison Company providing for the replacement of existing streetlights throughout the city with LED streetlights.

My Position: Support.

Debate about the level of intensity of the lumens (brightness glow and light pollutions due to the blue light waves emitted) per watt has arisen. The concern is for any disruption that may occur in the circadian rhythm (the internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and repeats every 24 hours) of humans. It will not impact the cost (\$5,796,000) of the 28,000 streetlights we will need regardless of whether we have a higher or lower brightness to the LED lights that are installed. A 3000K LED lighting is considered energy efficient and economically viable. Kelvin lighting higher than 3000K is believed to produce harsh glare at night and can also suppress melatonin production. Nocturnal wildlife, birds, insects and fish are disturbed by excessive outdoor lighting. Also, sky glow would be reduced and nightscapes improved with shielding.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON PRESENTS:

R-046-20 Supporting Toledo Sister Cities International in their efforts to accept donations of disposable gowns and medical facemasks for Qinhuangdao and Nanchong, China as they battle the coronavirus.

My Position: Support.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

COUNCILMAN LUDEMAN PRESENTS:

R-047-20 Urging the Federal Communications Commission to move as rapidly as possible to implement the 988, three digit Suicide Hotline.

My Position: Support.

It was stated by the sponsor that we should probably follow this problem more closely than the coronavirus.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

COUNCILMAN RILEY PRESENTS:

R-048-20 Authorizing and supporting Woodlawn Cemetery to preserve land in the City of Toledo.

My Position: Support.

This effort will maintain the creek by supporting Woodlawn Cemetery's application for money from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-049-20 Authorizing the appropriation of \$75,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund and operating transfer of same into the Capital Improvement Fund; authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for improvements at Willys Park; authorizing the Mayor to accept bids and award contracts necessary to complete said project.

My Position: Support.

This action actually moves the money from the General Fund to the CIP for the explicit purpose of using it to improve Willys Park.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-050-20 Declaring it necessary to improve a portion of the Hill Avenue by upgrading existing street lights with additional street lights poles and LED lamps.

My Position: Support.

The portion of Hill Avenue between Byrne and Reynolds Road is extremely dark at night until dawn. This has created an extremely hazardous situation for decades, especially for anyone walking across the street, most notably, children on their way to school. By adding poles and LED luminaries, street lighting concerns from Byrne to the West City Limits will be addressed.

First reading was held on this ordinance at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHERRY AND THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
PRESENT:**

O-051-20 Approving a Petition For Special Assessments for Special Energy Improvement Projects and a Project Plan for the Northwest Ohio Advanced Energy Improvement District under Chapter 1710 of the Ohio Revised Code; to authorize and levy special assessments for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, and improving certain public improvements in the City of Toledo in cooperation with the Northwest Ohio Advanced Energy Improvement District; and to approve an Energy Project Agreement in connection with such improvements and special assessments.

My Position: Support.

These are petition and levy assessments for energy improvements through the Port Authority for Weintraub and Coulter at 3310 Cheltenham costing \$12,566.00.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR:

O-052-20 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment to the Agreement which established the Regional Combined Health District with the Lucas County Board of Commissioners and other participating jurisdictions; authorizing the expenditure of funds.

My Position: Support.

This extends our agreement from December 31, 2019 to January 1, 2021 with renewal options. Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania and Oregon comprise this health district.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS:

O-053-20 Authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) through the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and to accept and deposit a 2018 OCJS Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Grant in the amount of \$31,000 for the Toledo Police Department; authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of funds from the Operation Grants fund.

My Position: Support.

The purpose of this grant is to provide for gun violence reduction overtime costs.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE OPERATIONS:

O-054-20 Authorizing the Mayor to execute a County Wide Emergency Medical Services Agreement between the Board of Commissioners of Lucas County, City of Toledo and other Lucas County subdivisions; authorizing the acceptance and deposit of payments.

My Position: Support.

This agreement is effective from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 with renewal options for five (5) full time and one (1) part time EMS squads. The compensation rates for full time and part time advanced Life Support Life Squads are \$201,099.03 and \$125,686.89 respectively, per quarter. The annual compensation to Toledo is approximately \$4,524,728.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-055-20 Authorizing the mayor to accept a grant from Walmart for the city of Toledo, Department of Fire & Rescue Operations; authorizing the deposit, appropriation and expenditure of \$1,500 to be used to provide a tool shed for Fire Station 21.

My Position: Support.

This fire station is located at the corner of Detroit and Glendale. The grant will be used to buy a tool shed for storing the station's lawn equipment.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

O-056-20 Authorizing the expenditure of \$13,433 from the Water Operating Fund to provide payment of the City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities' membership dues for 2020 to the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

My Position: Support.

The AWWA is an international nonprofit society that promotes safety and welfare throughout the water processing community.

First reading was held on this ordinance at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-057-20 Authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; authorizing the mayor to accept, deposit an amount not to exceed \$120,487 into the Water Replacement Fund for the cleanup and remediation of soil impacted due to oil in abandoned pipelines on York Street; authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of said funds.

My Position: Support.

The need for soil cleanup and remediation of residual oil was found necessary during the installation of a new water main. The abandoned lines in the York Street rights-of-way were removed and capped.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-058-20 Authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated balance of the Water Replacement Fund for the 2020 Water Main Program; authorizing the mayor to prepare plans and specifications, acquire rights-of-way and easements as appropriate, accept bids and enter into contracts after due advertising for the design and construction of water mains.

My Position: Support.

Annually, deteriorating and undersized water mains are replaced within the city's water distribution system to maintain reliable, safe service.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

O-059-20 Authorizing the expenditure of \$18,385 from the Sewer Operating Fund to pay the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for the Water Reclamation Division's 2020 membership dues.

My Position: Support.

This organization is the nationally recognized leader in water protection. It is a technical resource for the city on water quality issues.

First reading was held on this ordinance at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY:

O-060-20 Authorizing the expenditure of \$214,668 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Technology Infrastructure Improvements Projects; authorizing the Mayor to enter into contracts for said improvement projects.

My Position: Support.

There is a need for network infrastructure improvements. All will have a life span of at least five (5) years. However, a list and depreciation schedule was requested. Now, it specifies that it is for an OGC Data Center Uninterruptable power supply and Hardware (Storage Appliance and Server) to support back up and recovery.

Ordinance amended and passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

O-061-20 Authorizing the mayor to contract with the Auditor of State for the 2019 annual audit for the City's accounting and financial records; authorizing the expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$180,000 from the General Fund.

My Position: Support.

This is an annual requirement done by the Auditor of State, in house. Clark, Shaffer, Hackett (CSH) had been contracted to do this work in years prior to 2017.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.

ITEM LIKELY TO BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

O-062-20 Repealing Toledo Municipal Code Section 1726.09, "Chronic Commercial Property Nuisance"

My Position: Support.

We were reminded by one of our current council members about a quote by the late Gene Cook that “Whatever council does, it can undo.” This was a perfect example of that reality.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of February 11, 2020.