

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Patten at 7:30 p.m. The clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

**D'AMICO, TROYER, SALVATORE, MENCINI, BURGIO, POWERS, HIGGINS**

Also in attendance were Engineer Piatak, Service Director Cayet, Safety Director Byrnes and Finance Director Cingle.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. Regular Caucus Meeting held on March 4, 2014.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Troyer, to approve as printed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

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**DISCUSSION:**

1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS LOCAL NO. 436. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mayor Coyne stated this is a portion of the agreement that deals with the reorganization in the Recreation and Service departments. All the financial considerations are still part of the negotiation process.

Mr. Higgins stated that he spoke with the union representative from Local 436 and what is in front of us is not what he said they agreed upon.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place back in committee.

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Mayor Coyne asked Mr. Higgins what union official from Local 436 you talked to.

Mr. Higgins responded I think I talked to Mr. Kopchak who is their steward.

Mr. Salvatore suggested placing this on the next Caucus agenda in order to allow time for the Mayor to clear this issue up.

Mr. Higgins and Mr. Troyer removed their motion and support.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to place on the next Caucus agenda.

**Discussion: cont.**

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Higgins, Salvatore, Troyer, D’Amico, Powers, Burgio, Mencini  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

- 2. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COUNCIL ON THE CITY OF BROOK PARK’S COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA (CRA) AGREEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place on the next Council agenda.

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Mr. Jamison stated in speaking with the Economic Development Commissioner it would be appreciated if Council would pass this tonight. This legislation is time-sensitive and confirmation needs to be sent down to the State of Ohio.

Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Troyer removed their motion and support.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place on the Council meeting agenda immediately following.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Salvatore, Troyer, D’Amico, Higgins, Powers, Burgio, Mencini  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

Mr. Patten stated this will appear under M-2 as Resolution No. 5-2014.

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, D’AMICO:**

- 1. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE AMOUNT OF TAXES THAT MAY BE RAISED BY LEVY WITHIN THE TEN (10) MILL LIMITATION AND WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS IN THE CITY OF BROOK PARK TO BE INSUFFICIENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Troyer, to amend Section 3 – line 2 delete the word Special and insert the word General; in Section 3 – line 3 delete August 5, 2014 and insert November 4, 2014; section 4 – line 3 delete May 6, 2014 and insert August 6, 2014; section 4 - line 5 delete August 5, 2014 and insert November 4, 2014 and in Section 6 - line 5 delete May 6, 2014 and insert August 6, 2014.

Mr. Salvatore stated as previously discussed I thought there was an agreement that August was the proper date to put on the ballot because that would be the only item on the ballot for the electors to sink their teeth into this important issue.

**Finance Committee – Chairman, D’Amico: cont.**

Mr. Higgins responded that may have been some people’s thought process but in the meantime this Council has been beaten up a little bit by the public for causing an issue and a problem and an extra \$30,000 expenditure for this August Special Election, which was no cause of this Council whatsoever. So the city can save the \$30,000 for this Special Election and in November there will be more citizens voting in that particular election for a bigger voting public weighing in on this community.

Mayor Coyne stated this is totally ill-advised to take this action. I have tried and can’t understand Mr. Higgins’ sensibility to criticism we get it everyday and have to live with it and we have a greater responsibility to the people of this community. To put that on the ballot with all the other things that are going to be on there is almost certain failure for this measure. It’s very, very important that these two measures and I will explain and outline them to you. We have to take the heat if we’re serious about turning this city around and it’s my recommendation for this special election because we missed the deadline for May. There’s a lot of different reasons that happened but the fact of the matter is to give the city the best chance to pass this I’m telling everybody I’m not supporting the Sin Tax and I’m not supporting the school we’re going to do for our own in this city. It has to begin up here on this dais to do what is right for the citizens no matter who criticizes you, it doesn’t matter. All that matters is the future of this city that’s what matters and to give us the best chance to pass this measure. It is imperative that we have the best chance to do that to our people so it’s not grouped in with everything else. So I am asking Council to pass this and put it on the ballot for the people to make the decision and I have no problem explaining why both these measures are needed. What is going on in negotiations and what we’re going through in reorganizations and I challenge anybody to drive down Sylvia Drive and take a good look at it, that’s what we have to be faced with. Tens of millions of dollars for improvements that have to take place in this city and this money has to freed-up in the General Fund for the challenge for senior services. That’s who is getting criticized that too much is done for the seniors and we do too much for the children. Let the voters have the opportunity to say we want these services in this city and are willing to dig into our pockets to do that. So I’m asking Council to give us the best chance to be successful and whoever has to take the heat so be it and nobody will take it more than me and bring it on with anybody that wants to argue with me, be responsible and it starts tonight. I’m not being disingenuous with you and I’m not talking down to Council I am telling you what to do for the future of this city and be serious about it.

Mr. Troyer stated the biggest difference is if this is put on the August ballot we have to spend \$30,000 plus dollars to put in on there and in November it won’t cost the city anything. It’s only a few months difference and there will be more people voting in November and more possible yes’s, so I will be voting yes on this amendment.

**Finance Committee – Chairman, D’Amico: cont.**

Mayor Coyne stated to Mr. Troyer would you spend \$30,000 to get \$1.9? I’m not going to give you practical reality I’ve been in more elections and ran more elections; successful elections than anyone sitting up here and if you think you have a better chance in November you’re not thinking straight. The reality is this is the best \$30,000 that this city could invest in its’ future.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Higgins, Troyer, D’Amico, Powers  
**NAYS:** Salvatore, Mencini, Burgio. The motion carried to amend several sections of this legislation.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Higgins, to place on the next Council agenda.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Higgins, D’Amico, Salvatore, Mencini, Burgio, Powers  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, TROYER:**

1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CLEVELAND RESTORATION SOCIETY (CRS) TO CREATE THE HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BROOK PARK WHO OWN HOMES THAT ARE 50 YEARS OR OLDER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
Introduced by Councilman Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore invited all Members of Council, especially Dennis Patten who was working on the same thing, to co-sponsor this legislation.

Mr. Mencini stated this is a very good program for the city to have and former Councilwoman Astorino was a proponent of this and I am in favor.

Mr. Salvatore thanked former Councilwoman Astorino for bringing this forward.

**Motion** by Mr. D’Amico, supported by Mr. Mencini, to place on the next Council agenda. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

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**Council/Administration Remarks:**

**Motion** by Mr. D’Amico, supported by Mr. Troyer, to remove M-1, Ordinance No. 9903-2014 from the Council agenda immediately following.

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Mayor Coyne questioned the reason why?

**Council/Administration Remarks: cont.**

Mr. D'Amico stated in new light that negotiations are taking place and this is part of the negotiating process and from past discussions in January. About removing legislation from an agenda this might be a repeat, this is in light of new evidence that was brought forward.

Mayor Coyne requested a copy of the memorandum that was received from former Councilwoman Astorino. Mayor Coyne stated this has nothing to do with negotiations this says 'not more than' so there is nothing new to be enlightened. Let's be candid about this if Council is going to interfere in negotiations I'm not going to tolerate it. So this has nothing to do with it and it's not similar to what was proposed at all. The other action was outside negotiations that required Council approval and we're doing it the correct way. So if you have questions as the Finance Chairman about negotiations ask me and I will let you know.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** D'Amico, Troyer, Mencini, Burgio, Powers  
**NAYS:** Salvatore  
**ABSTENTION:** Higgins The motion carried.

Mr. Patten stated this legislation will be placed in the Safety Committee.  
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There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Patten declared this meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Michelle Blazak  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED May 7, 2014

THESE MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY BROOK PARK CITY COUNCIL ARE A SYNOPSIS, NOT TRANSCRIBED IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ALTHOUGH ACCURATE.

