

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Patten at 6:00 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 Law Director Jamison, Mayor Coyne, Recreation Director Fields, Safety Director Byrnes, Service Director Cayet, Building Commissioner Hurst, Finance director Cingle, Economic Development Commissioner Dolan, County Commissioner Miller and Assistant Finance Director Healy (6:30 p.m.)  
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. Regular Caucus meeting held on February 4, 2015.

**Motion** by Mr. D'Amico, supported by Mr. Burgio, to approve as printed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.  
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**DISCUSSION:**

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION – PER MAYOR COYNE  
**In attendance: Economic Development Commissioner Dolan**

Mayor Coyne stated that Mr. Dolan will be providing an outline on some of the initiatives the city would like to undertake.

Mr. Dolan distributed program initiatives (on file in the Council office) that will be followed up with approved legislation. It's important to note that currently there are no city programs to assist residents in the community; the residents of the community are totally dependent on Cuyahoga County for any programs that might be available. Last year City Council passed legislation for the Heritage Loan program and several people inquired about that program but the program is incredibly cumbersome with respect to the requirements and what's needed to be done. This program was also a very high-end program and many of the Brook Park homes did not qualify; for instance if the home had aluminum or vinyl siding the home was excluded from the program. It is also important to note that in today's newspaper the city recently put in a grant request to Cuyahoga County for 36 or 38 homes that are in the foreclosure/vacant process taken off a list of over 300 homes in the city that are vacant and being foreclosed on. This is about 2% of residential stock which is not a huge number and not all the homes on the vacant/foreclosed list require demolition but every home will require some type of maintenance to bring them up to code and any residential property that is vacant for any length of time; it's not long before deferred maintenance kicks in and problems occur and the city has absolutely no programs in place to address any of those issues. There are a few programs that will allow city personnel to work with current residents in their

**Discussion: cont.**

homes to improve their property to maintain the city's housing stock so that the city doesn't get into the downward spiral anymore than the city is now with abandoned or vacated homes. The homes that are abandoned or foreclosed if the owners and the banks look at the property and think the cost of rehabilitation is in excess of the fair-market value it just never will be repaired. Having that in the background there are some programs for homeowners who are not in distress and going through the budget process Council should consider those homes that have no homeowners and how they affect the property values around the neighborhoods. There is one property on Holland Road that the city took in the land reutilization process; the property went through tax foreclosure and the city ended up getting title to it. The building commissioner and I have been through the property and are in the process of trying to figure out whether the property can be redeemed through repair, which has its own set of luggage because the city now owns the property. Public bidding, etc., would have to kick in if the city makes any repairs or whether or not the city can fashion a program that would assist first-time homebuyers or other people to come into the city and be offered some kind of stability to help with assisting to rehabilitate and then occupy the property; there are several ideas that can be discussed individually to try and turn around these homes. It is possible that many of these homes may have to be demolished and then sell the lots, I'm not quite sure in every circumstance that is the right thing to do. Mr. Dolan continued the first program the city would like to submit to Council is the BHAP (Brook Park Home Maintenance Assistance Program) that I had as Ward 21 for the City of Cleveland that was used to maintain the housing stock in the city. Many seniors are on fixed-incomes and cannot afford to make necessary home repairs that will preserve the housing stock fair-market value over the course of time. So a 50-50 program was fashioned up to a certain level and all capital expenditures would be looked at such as the roof, furnace and even in some cases kitchens because the kitchen, bathroom and mechanical systems are the things that maintain the home value. This would be a general fund program that anybody can participate in the city would qualify the interested party based upon requirements of the program; for example income, age requirement for seniors, disabled people and so forth, to go in and fix the home and allow the city to maintain the housing value and take a lien out on the property for the value of the loan and the lien can be paid off in full, part or when the home gets sold. That program was incredibly popular and successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward and just from the limited amount that I've been through in the City of Brook Park there appears to be an abundance of maintenance issues that residents could attend to with a program like this.

Mayor Coyne commented this is just a description and enabling legislation would be needed to be enacted by Council to set the parameters.

Mr. Dolan continued this would also require an appropriation that could be in the Economic Development Fund and have each specific program broken out or Council can choose an specific fund that could be created or 'earmarked' out of that fund.

**Discussion: cont.**

A home maintenance plan is needed in the city because there is nothing to assist the residents and in many instances home maintenance is the first item deferred especially with seniors and households with challenging incomes. The second program would be the BPSRP (Brook Park City-Wide Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Program) which is a 50/50 sidewalk repair/replacement program with the idea being on a city-wide contract where the sidewalks are assessed and residents with violations are notified of the violation. If the resident is interested in participating in the city-wide contract both the city and homeowner would pay for half the cost of the sidewalk replacement; the sidewalk would be installed according to city standards. If necessary the city could also lien the value of the property to the homeowner if they do not pay because it would be a public improvement and accessible in any event. This program would be operated in conjunction with the building, housing, and finance departments and the gist of this program would be done through the Economic Development department. The basis of this program is curb appeal and having a walk-able, livable ride-able neighborhood that will hold its value. These first two programs will go a long way in helping the residents maintain the value of their property in the city. The third program is the Cross-Connection Program that Council President Patten is familiar with and when service director went through the city and identified houses that with cross-connections which is a big issue with respect to sewer flooding. This is a problem and there is nothing worse than for a resident to experience flooding basements, storm water issues, etc. and this program would have a lot of appeal to the affected residents. So the city devised the Brook Park City-Wide Wastewater Cross Connection Elimination Program and I have calls out to NEORS (Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District) for any assistance but to date there is none. If the city would like to address the problem this program would be instituted and the city would build upon the work that was done prior in identifying the houses. The city would identify the basic cost and any willing residents would participate in the 50/50 program or some other type of shared cost in order to eliminate the need. This program would help maintain the housing stock value and quite frankly, as a former Council Member, there is nothing worse than dealing with a constituent's call about a flooded basement. The houses in the city have been affected for a long time and one flood residents may get coverage on but after that there is no insurance coverage. Also, it doesn't make a difference who owns it if you are a subsequent buyer of a property that has flood damage you probably won't be able to get coverage on it. This wouldn't have the same amount of affect as the home maintenance program or the curb appeal of the sidewalk program but it is probably one of the top five in the housing stock of the city. The City of Brook Park was built post WWII and is now getting to the point of an aging infrastructure and aging houses. The city did have the benefit of the sound insulation program to rebuild a lot of the housing but there is a fair portion of the city that doesn't qualify for that and there is also a fair portion of senior status residents that are on a fixed income and would probably benefit from this program.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Coyne commented when Council President Patten was service director he probably did the most extensive smoke-testing of homes and some of them were as simple as disconnecting the downspouts and other homes might have to be excavated. This program would solve a couple of different problems for the city number one being the resident would know what the problem is what the remedy is. As Mr. Dolan commented the homes in the city were built post WWII, there were 6,000 homes built in seven summers and there wasn't a lot of inspections so there is a great deal of arguments as to who the responsible party is; the city that had no inspection capabilities or the homeowner. With the city participating with the homeowner to relieve them of flooding problems is important and also with the limited service crews and the city is starting to do this with other issues that when a problem is found and the city has a remedy for you to correct it and you don't correct it service crews will not be sent out anymore. Service crews have been out to some houses 40 or 50 times and tell the residents what the remedy is and with this program be able to help homeowners with that remedy; therefore not having service crews respond to complaints that should be corrected.

Mr. Dolan continued in the packet there is an outline of what cities applied for in county grants; Berea had \$300,000, Brook Park had \$380,000 and Middleburg Hts. at \$125,000 less for demolition funds to tear down structures. Mr. Dolan was surprised at the Middleburg Hts. number but this is part of the three-city group and obviously there is a strain on the community as a result of the 2008 economic downturn and mortgage crisis. If these problems are not addressed they will do nothing but get worse and just assume that the banks or whoever owns the properties that is not a safe assumption for this community. This hasn't panned out in the past with banks show responsibility and come in and maintain the properties. Also, in the packet is the Economic Development slideshow shown at the Town Hall meeting held on November 12, 2014. The reason for this is I want to respectfully submit to Council that this city since 2000 has hemorrhaged in low tax dollars and in either 2008 or 2009 the city stopped going out and being aggressive in economic development. It has been communicated to me later last week that the city does not need to address economic development because of all the car dealerships and Harley Davidson coming in and Roses; and am glad that these businesses are here. Rose's has two full-time employees and are not a significant contributor of tax dollars to fund services in the city, but am glad they moved into Brookgate. That is the same thing with Harley-Davidson and to look back at what the city is receiving from Ford Motor in the year 2000 this city would have to have 257 of those projects to equal the tax dollars that this city lost from Ford Motor. Again, looking back in 2005 this city would have to have 148 Harley-Davidson projects, that are great projects, but this city needs to roll up its sleeves and work hard and smart about how to attract people. The city put that together with the Brownfield Remediation Program that includes other strategies that the city is using to attract companies such as Bendix but without assistance or tools the city will be tilting at windmills. So my response to the constituent that the city does not need to address these economic issues the city will never regain even a small part of the economic base

**Discussion: cont.**

the city once had. This city needs to work hard and figure out a way to partner with the community and improve our assets which is land & location and transportation so that this city is attractive to new and existing businesses.

Mayor Coyne commented Harley Davidson would not be coming to the city without some incentives. The competition and this city is at a critical point right now while the dealerships that have come to the city recently were not of the city's work. Metro Lexus and Toyota did locate on Brookpark Road with the start of the Brookpark Road Corridor redevelopment. Where this city is right now from West 150<sup>th</sup> Street to Henry Ford Boulevard presents the biggest challenges to this city in redevelopment and I think it's going to be necessary to have funds from the standpoint of not only to have incentive for companies to do things but also in being able to offer assistance on brownfields. We will be a meeting with the Vice-President of Operations at Ford Motor Company this coming Friday morning in that there is a dilemma that the city has interested parties to come to that property and Ford's interest is they are not sure what they want to do with the property; this city cannot continue to sit and wait for that decision. This city would love to see a new aluminum foundry there that would produce castings for the engines but not sure if that is a reality. One final thing that Mr. Dolan did not cover was the Senior Services Assistance Grant that the city is proposing be done. I'm not sure if we want to work on legislation with Council on whether we should collect numbers and contract out for those services or give those qualifying seniors a voucher to pay for those services. Those are one of the things that need to be talked about because this city will not have the manpower to do the program as expeditiously as seniors would like. All of these items being proposed will have legislation and talk about how these programs will be formulated but these are issues that need to be addressed. As I've stated before this city needs to find a way on how services are delivered, not stop delivering them, but find a different way that makes more economic sense. This is the right way to fund them and the Administration hopes that Council agrees and provides for them in the budget and then work out the legislation as to how this assistance will be delivered to the residents.

Mr. Dolan continued the last thing that I would like to talk about is the Sound Insulation Program Fund that was basically created for the railroad quiet zones and there was some discussion at the last meeting as to whether or not that money should stay in that fund. The city has basically completed and Council should know that all the quiet zones that can be established in the city have been established with the exception of the triple track on Sheldon Road Norfolk-Southern crossing. The West 130<sup>th</sup> Street CSX crossing on the east end and the tracks on Hummel Road are too close together and don't meet the federal guidelines as to where quiet zones can be placed; the street crossings have to be one-half mile or so apart. The two crossings on West 130<sup>th</sup> Street and Hummel Road don't meet those standards. The city does have the quiet zone on this end of Holland Road there can't be a quiet zone at the east end and that would hold true whether or not the City of Parma agreed to establish a quiet zone on the shared West 130<sup>th</sup> Street; so joint

**Discussion: cont.**

cooperation would be needed. The cost of implementing a quiet zone on a major street is not inexpensive and the same criteria would be applied to the Holland Road crossing at Sheldon and has the same issues of closeness with respect to Eastland Road and not sure if it is safe to have a quiet zone exist in an industrial sector and not sure what kind of response would be received from the PUCO (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio) and the railroads. All quiet zones in the city that can be made quiet have been done and the CSX – Holland crossing will become a quiet zone on April 15, 2015 when the 'No Train Horn' signs are installed; all parties have been notified and there have been no objections. A brief summary of what the administration is currently working on is with Mazzella to look at the other 35 acres where the former apartments were torn down to see if joint development is possible with the City of Cleveland that has access to Aerospace Parkway. Also sites have been suggested to Bendix in Elyria OH as well the Ford Motor Company. Mr. White has sold the majority of his property on the north side of Brookpark Road and the owner of the property, RJ Wurz, will be putting an addition on the Crane Company; located on the western portion of that property and has approached the city for assistance in demolishing the Quanset Hut; an asbestos survey is currently being done and if there is no asbestos found the cost for demolishing that building would be very marginal. Mr. White's goal is to construct a 30 to 40 square foot warehouse-manufacturing facility that can be leased out to attract tenants. It's interesting to note that those are exactly the types of buildings that the city lacks. So in order for the city to have those types of facilities and the land to build those facilities is critical to attract with smaller manufacturing tenants; the city will not find the people interested in a 100,000 square foot but the middle-market people are out there and will come to the city if there is a site, so site control is the key on future development.

Mr. D'Amico stated the issues with housing; sidewalks and cross-connections programs have been talked about with Council and the Mayor and am glad for the explanation to Council. Quite a long time some Council Members went to Boston as part of N.O.I.S.E. (National Organization to Insure A Sound Controlled Environment) to take a look at different things with the airports with decibel ratings and target zones is it understood that the sound insulation money is as described and only for that and not for anything with that because of the alignment out of the target zone.

Mr. Dolan responded there are two different funds; the fund that I described was the railroad sound insulation fund and the fund that you're speaking of is the airport noise insulation that is generally funded from PFC (past-due facility charges) that are charged by the airport. What's happened since 1997 is the federal requirements for noise emissions on aircraft have taken hold and are now well past the application stage III requirements that would reduce the noise level of all jets including the cargo and charter jets. So once they get beyond the stage III requirements or implement them the noise reduction on the jets from a 1997 standard is probably an 80% reduction in the emissions. How that plays out is when Cleveland Hopkins International Airport goes out into the community and the noise monitors are out there that are recording it dramatically shrinks the footprint to the extent that the Cities of Brook Park, Cleveland, Olmsted Falls, and Olmsted Township are eligible to receive federal sound insulation funds depending on

**Discussion: cont.**

that footprint. Which is far smaller today than anytime in the past simply because of technology that is greater and it is a federal requirement that the planes can't exceed certain emission standards. The areas in the runway protection zones and the approaches and the east-west on the north end runway flies over the I-480 corridor which is the industrial corridor of the city so it's going to have a marginal impact. The houses by Holy Cross Cemetery are too far away the planes will be far too high before beginning to descent so I would be credibly surprised if any homes in that area were recovered by federal airport noise standards. I would assume that all the houses on the southwest side of the city have already been in earlier phases of the program and the current footprint would not expend those boundaries. The only thing left in the sound insulation and may be applicable would be the Phase II of the 2001 Settlement Agreement. There was a portion of houses that were to have been completed or purchased in the city but they were by agreement of the previous administration deferred from Phase I into Phase II and are now considered to be part of the Phase II airport sound insulation; the purchase type program; whether or not Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will embark on a Phase II buyout is quite frankly remote and think that not only have the noise levels gone down substantially because of technological advancement but also the loss of air traffic at Hopkins as a result of United and other carriers has been substantial and the airport doesn't have the resources.

Mr. D'Amico stated the monies in the sound insulation program can they be used to help those homes on the end of town by the airport.

Mr. Dolan responded those were for purchase and quite frankly there is not enough monies.

Mr. Salvatore stated Council has been talking about these programs for sometime and all of them are equally important but one that I have a few questions is the demolition money talked about where Brook Park is looking to apply for a \$380,000 grant. Can those monies be used for anything other than demolition such as acquisition?

Mr. Dolan responded technically no but I would hope that the Cuyahoga County Council would be willing to listen to all these cities requests.

Mr. Salvatore continued looking at some of the cities Maple Hts. requested \$900,000; Garfield Hts. requested \$950,000 and probably need that much money because those cities waited too long. I don't think Brook Park is in that position yet but I think if the city moves forward to start acquiring some of these foreclosed properties that are able to be rehabilitated and rebuilt to the maximums top dollars can be obtained.

Mr. Dolan responded when I went to get my eyes checked a few months ago the technician was a Brook Park woman who was pregnant and her boyfriend are currently living in the in-laws basement and have been saving for a home for the last three years. My first thought was the home on Hummel Road and why doesn't the city have a program for young couples that want to start a home and instead of them having to come up with monies for a mortgage. They could come up with \$50,000 for a mortgage and the city could help them in securing the property to get if fixed up and live in the house. My fear with the tearing down of houses is people driving down the street and seeing where a house once stood it makes the community look distressed. Trying to entice builders to come into an inner-ring suburb to construct a new home is challenging so there would have to be some type of assistance or incentive for them to come in.

**Discussion: cont.**

So I'm not too sure with the tearing down of homes and having empty lots; the neighbors would be glad to get rid of the nuisance but I'm not sure if that helps the city to the maximum extent possible. So the Council of the city has to be creative in how situations are approached and I think whatever the city can do or an incentive the city can offer to prevent the home from getting to the point of being torn down. If a house is torn down then the city should have some sort of incentive to help people to build homes on the empty lots.

Mr. Salvatore commented when too many houses are torn down that gives a negative impact on schools and other tax situation.

Mr. Mencini stated the homes are a big issue and I really like the Senior Service Assistance to assist seniors with the upkeep of their homes. In your presentation you stated that you had good success with this program when you were a Cleveland Councilman; what was good success?

Mr. Dolan stated my program as a Cleveland Councilman had \$200,000 annually in a Home Maintenance Assistance Program and I was in the position of controlling my own block grant funds. The Home Maintenance Assistance Program had federal requirements attached to it because of the federal monies but I probably did 30, 40, or more homes a year that included sewer line repairs and/or outdated kitchen. When going into a home the things we looked for was did the project assist in maintaining the fair-market value of the home; the people who took advantage of this program were pensioners who lacked the cash flow to implement a repair such as a roof, that is a huge expenditure, furnaces and emergency type things were always available and where possible as a Cleveland Councilman I would take liens on the property if the homeowners had no means of paying back and then collect the investment back and have a productive house when the property is sold. I think the city should fashion a program that would be as inclusive as possible to allow the greatest number of people to take care of the critical necessary repairs.

Mr. Mencini continued with the Engle Road crossing in Ward 2 was never mentioned to be a quiet zone is the reason that it's too close to the Holland and Hummel Road crossings?

Mr. Dolan responded the Norfolk-Southern line has two at grade crossings which is Eastland and Sheldon everything else on the Norfolk-Southern line is not at grade. The Sheldon Road crossing is shared with the City of Berea so that city would have to agree to come in on the cost and this would assume the entire sound insulation fund to try and create a quiet zone at those dangerous intersections.

Mr. Higgins stated there have been talks about Brookpark Road from West 150<sup>th</sup> Street to Engle Road and agree that is the next target area for the city. Previously when Mayor Coyne was in office there were conversations with Mr. Liptak who owns a large parcel on Brookpark Road and has a history of being difficult to work with at times. I thought at one time the Mayor had something worked out that the city could put in some type of infrastructure or industrial parkway for that property. Has anyone reached out to Mr. Liptak as to the plans for his property which is eyesore from I-71 that includes a billboard being parked on top of a pile of gravel pretending like it's a semi parked up there.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Coyne responded at one time the city was trying to create a supplier city for Ford Motor Company and Council approved the preliminary expenditures of approximately \$1.5 million dollars to build a roadway through Mr. Liptak's property from Hummel Road to Brookpark Road to redevelop those parcels. Mr. Liptak rejected that offer and the city tried working with him and brought Cardinal Ford here on helping the city because he owned the Cardinal Ford property. The most amazing move that Mr. Liptak has made is selling that property to Harley Davidson and Mr. Liptak's son is taking a more active role in some of the operatives there. NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) many years ago cited that as the worst site along the interstate in Ohio and Mr. Liptak has some unique grandfathering issues that are there but the city is going to continue to work on that and that is why the incentives will be needed to get some of these things going down in that particular area.

Mr. Higgins commented I see former State Representative Colonna's son in the audience and tease him all the time because when his father was a state representative in charge of the highway had some trees that he wanted me to plant to beautify that section. When I found out the trees arrived in five-gallon bucket I laughed and said I wouldn't plant them but I planted them and if you drive by there because of the grade is a little higher you will see some trees that I planted probably 30 years ago that former State Representative Colonna secured for the city to beautify that area and hide that eyesore; some of those trees are now 8' tall.

Mr. Dolan stated as a follow-up to Mr. Liptak I had the opportunity to speak with him and his manager Steve Guisler (not sure of spelling) about what to do with the property. I was trying to pitch a big picture and Mr. Liptak's plan is to leave the land for his children and grandchildren and I respectfully suggested to him that it would be a greater monument to his legacy if his family could come and see what he did to better the community. Mr. Liptak showed interest in the vision and/or monument of Mike Liptak and when spring comes Mr. Liptak will have the trees and weeds cleared from the former Holiday Inn site and would work to clean up the property so as not to be such an eyesore. Hopefully, if the city can get a good project over there my hope is that something can be established.

Mr. Higgins commented Mr. Liptak has money but people may not realize how big of a property Mr. Liptak actually controls on that section.

Mr. Dolan interjected Mr. Liptak controls that property all the way back.

Mr. Higgins stated he owns a huge piece of property including the torn down bowling alley but it's not helping the city with the property just sitting there. Mr. Higgins thanked all departments for putting these proposals together during the budget talks.

Mr. Burgio clarified that it is not permissible for one community to go half and half with another community for quiet zones. Mr. Burgio also asked for an explanation of the Ultra-Virus Act.

Mr. Dolan responded the Ultra-Virus Act is an act that is performed outside the legal authority of the person performing it, generally a corporation or municipal corporation. That is in there for example the CSX crossing on Smith Road lies solely within Middleburg Hts. and since all four corners of that crossing are within Middleburg Hts. it would be an Ultra-Virus Act. The City of Brook Park could have an agreement with Middleburg Hts. to spend city monies on their railroad

**Discussion: cont.**

crossing meaning that the City of Brook Park could give tax dollars to Middleburg Hts. but that city would still have to approve and institute a crossing.

Mr. Burgio stated that crossing does affect City of Brook Park residents on Wolf Road, Middlebrook Blvd., and Michael Drive because the trains are blowing horns right behind residents' properties.

Mr. Dolan concurred.

Mr. Burgio stated with the Brook Park Home Maintenance Assistance Program how much help would this be for residents or is this for residents who are unable to get a loan because interest rates are at an all-time low right now.

Mr. Dolan responded the parameters would be for the Council to establish with the Administration and the goal is to maintain the housing stock. It might fall to the seniors who are on a pension and so forth. Being a Cleveland Councilman I had a lot of experience with seniors who owned their home and couldn't qualify for a loan because they didn't have the income. The city could build into this program a requirement that homeowners' first seek commercial financing since the rates are low but if the loan has been refused and a roof is needed the end result would not be good for the homeowners' or the city.

Mayor Coyne stated the city would be a little bit more liberal than the banks that cannot fail. Some of the reasons that people can't improve their properties because of issues that came about through no fault of their own and the credit scores that the banks make so important. So it would be how the city writes the program and the end result would be the city protecting themselves with the lien and for whatever the loan can't be paid; once the property is sold or auctioned the city will be able to get their monies back.

Mr. Troyer stated with the Sheldon and Eastland railroad crossings what is the problem that it can't be done?

Mr. Dolan responded the city can do it but the cost of putting in the safety apparatus and improvements at those two; Sheldon on the Norfolk Southern and Eastland on the Norfolk Southern would basically consume the entire sound insulation fund and have marginal value.

Mr. Troyer stated that there are continual complaints about train noise from the residents on Sheldon Road on the west end; so I don't agree with saying that it is marginal and also complaints have been coming in from Cedar Point Road about plane noise. I am not in support of taking monies out of the sound insulation fund it's there for a purpose and I think the residents' need to have it used for that; ward one and other city wards have problems with train noise and don't think it should be taken out of there. With the matter of tearing down houses I spoke with an expert on this a few weeks ago and he informed me that it's not a good idea to tear down houses needlessly in Brook Park. If the city tears down a house it should be basically non-repairable. I would never be in favor of tearing down a house and leaving an empty lot because it hurts the schools, the little property tax the city gets and the occupants who pay income tax; all of these hurt the city's bottom line. I would be in favor of using funds from somewhere else to acquire these houses and fix them up under the city's watch. Meaning that if the city acquired these houses and have city crews make the repairs and be able to control the

**Discussion: cont.**

quality of work to turn the houses around and basically be assured that the city will get their monies back.

Mayor Coyne stated living on the west end I have not heard any planes in the Cedar Point Road area and these are two different issues. The sound insulation for the railroads is still close to \$500,000 that's left there and will be sufficient. What Mr. Dolan is saying is it would probably take \$1.5 million dollars to do a quiet zone at Eastland and Route 237. If the city is going to do that then the city might as well put in another couple of million dollars in and build a grade separation which would really help the city. There are a lot of reasons why this city has these problems mostly because the train traffic were diverted out of the City of Lakewood into Brook Park; which is divided into two areas and will always work with other cities to try and mitigate this matter; point being is there are sufficient monies in there to address any future problems that the city may have, unfortunately, these are not matters that the Congress seems fit or the regulating agency to expedite to get done. Most of these quiet zone measures were undertaken 12 years ago including the grade separation on Snow Road. So this is a prudent use of these funds because it is a great need to the neighborhood and I am not aware of any house that has been torn down that shouldn't have been torn down. The house on Muskingum and Michael neighbors were cheering when it was torn down. The house in Ward 1 on Christene and Sheldon when I would drive by always wondered how someone did not get hurt in that house with all the children in the area and all the rental properties in that area and adjacent to a

**Discussion: cont.**

playground; so in each one of these instances these were wise moves to demolish these homes and finally the striking purpose of this program is to get these matters corrected before those problems arise; Council can fashion by legislation the form of those programs as to how the issues in the neighborhoods should be addressed.

Mr. Troyer stated I think I heard a couple of different things; doing one quiet zone would use up all the monies and doing the Eastland quiet zone would use up all the money but then you said there would be plenty of money left to do quiet zones.

Mayor Coyne responded that is not what I said; what I said is there is about \$500,000 left in that fund and what I said was as well as what Mr. Dolan said was just to do the Eastland Road all those monies would be expended in that fund and then some, do to a quiet zone at Eastland Road. So what I'm saying is if this city is going to invest \$1.5 million dollars or \$1.6 million dollars or whatever it may be, even if they will allow the city to do it there with the number of tracks I would seriously doubt that they would, because there are signalization problems that the city is working on with ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) currently it would make more sense for the city to entertain working with the railroad and get federal funding to do a grade separation rather than a quiet zone.

Mr. Troyer commented then the monies should be left in there for that.

Mayor Coyne responded no we should not it is two separate issues.

Mrs. Powers stated my first question is given everything heard over the last year with the city's finances why would Council want to go into the housing market and become a banker for the housing market. I haven't heard anyone talk about Home Equity Loans (HEL) so these people

**Discussion: cont.**

that have their homes and can get a HEL for the same reason that you're saying it would be profitable for the city. These people can get a HEL and any money owed upon passing comes out of the house; so there is available ways to do that. With the railroad crossings Ward 3 has the crossings at Hummel and West 130<sup>th</sup> Street and you're talking about helping Middleburg Hts. out that have very limited houses in Brook Park but the residents that are practically on top of the West 130<sup>th</sup> and Hummel tracks need sound insulation; that is said can't be done because of the tracks on West 130<sup>th</sup> Street being partially in Brook Park and partially in Parma. The houses are on Hummel Road and should have a quiet zone there and as far as the sound insulation program when it was first started it was for airport noise and it doesn't matter if there are jets making less noise or fewer planes flying over houses. If planes fly over houses those people know they need the sound insulation program and there are a lot of homes in the Fairlawn area that did not get any assistance for sound insulation before; so if those monies are going to be used for anything it should be for sound insulation for the railroads and sound insulation for the Fairlawn area and people over by the airport that do have planes flying over their homes. I used to live in a flight path and when a plane is flying over everything stops, conversations stop, television programming stops, everything stops because you cannot hear when those planes are flying over. So Council does not need to take sound insulation monies for anything for sound insulation; I don't believe with the state of the economy of this city that we will be arguing budget now by going into the housing market. It would be nice if every house in Brook Park could be fixed up but to get someone else to come in and clean up the brown fields let Ford Motor clean up its own property because if the property is cleaned up you're not going to get anything in there because its Ford's property and they control who comes into the area.

Mr. D'Amico stated this is not a statement for or against just asking this question back when we started this trek the quiet zones, some of us on Council, had an understanding that if cul-de-sac streets like Hummel Road and made industrial parkway entrance from West 130<sup>th</sup> Street and kept it open for the residents on the other side the city would get \$250,000 for each cul-de-sac, is that still available.

Mr. Dolan responded I do not.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. D'Amico, that item number one was discussed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

**RUBBISH PRESENTATION – PER MAYOR COYNE****In attendance: Service Director Cayet**

Mayor Coyne stated also in attendance is Principal of Public Services, Dave Kidder. As Council knows the city has reduced personnel in the Service Department to approximately \$650,000, some of that was in sanitation, but it was an across the board reduction. There have been talks with a provider about providing those services and as said before decisions need to be made as to how this city is going to go forward and deliver those services. Most of the savings have been captured in the personnel area but there are still issues with the capital that have not been brought forward yet; with the expense of leasing the trucks and cans that are used. If the city is going to go forward in this business then the city will probably have to invest over \$1 million dollars in dealing with the yard waste; and it is under that

**Discussion: cont.**

type of umbrella that this decision is being weighed. Mr. Cayet will give his analysis and Mr. Kidder can answer any questions Council may have about the proposal before Council to determine as to how the city will proceed.

Mr. Cayet distributed to City Council a proposal from Republic Services (on file in the Council office) and that for several months there have been discussions with the unions to get their input and proposal for rubbish pickup. Currently the city is in contract with Republic Services for disposing of the recyclables and solid waste and the agreement would be for five years with Republic purchasing the city's automated rubbish trucks and a credit adjustment of \$150,000 towards the service. The breakdown per home the first year would be \$14.40 per home and for the city to continue performing this service that amount would increase another \$4.00 to \$6.00 per home for the capital side. Republic is in agreement with several communities and the only difference is that the city's trucks are right-hand driven only so there would be a transfer fee cost to transfer the waste from Strongsville to the dump from trucks that are left-hand driven due to the safety of the company. When the city purchased these trucks in September, 2012 the trucks and containers the cost was close to \$1.6 million dollars and with 25% depreciation gave the value of the equipment close to \$1.2 million dollars and the city still owes close to \$900,000.00 on the lease; with the money buyout of \$150,000.00 brings the total to \$1 million dollars. If the city was to purchase another round of trucks and cans for the homes that would be a cost of \$1.8 million dollars in future capital costs. Mr. Cayet commented that the city's work force is getting older and last summer there were several injuries due to rubbish. The last page of the documentation is the lease agreement buyout that Finance Director Cingle provided.

Mr. Mencini stated it is my opinion that the city crews do a good job and I think that is the feeling of most residents but will take a look at the numbers provided to Council.

Mayor Coyne stated no one is questioning the ability of the service crews to do a job; here's a decision that Council has to make. The City of Brook Park made a decision to get into this business when most cities were getting out of this business and have to believe there's good reason why that was occurring. So the decision that has to be made is if this city is going to stay in this business personnel will not be increased at the service garage. So if you look at the total of this proposal the savings is substantial on the capital end and if city crews are going to pick up rubbish then the city will have to purchase more automated trucks and containers to take care of the yard waste; so the city would be in this business for a decade to pay out the leases because by the time the seven-year lease is paid on the trucks needed for the yard waste the city will need new trucks to be replaced for what the city has currently. Under this proposal there would be city personnel that will be able to clean the sewers, maintain the streets and fix the potholes. So if the city keeps operating the way it is currently operating right now that will limit the city's service director to do that. So the fact of the matter is the quality of the service,

Discussion: cont.

I'm not aware, is any different and city workers will be out doing work that needs to be done, and if there is an argument about that I would like to hear it. That is the kind of capital requirement that Council will have to make and really tie this city up for a long, long time where there may be no breath at the end of the tunnel. This is a comprehensive proposal and had nothing to do with the quality of city workers that is a question or debate.

Mr. Troyer asked Service Director Cayet did anyone looking into privatizing only the yard waste and bulk pickup because I cannot believe that with the equipment the city already has, the setup the city already has and city personnel that the city cannot be competitive on doing the regular rubbish; I can't believe that the city workers cannot accomplish that and make it worthwhile for the city. I think the problem is coming with Workmen's' Compensation is when the city has the bulk and yard waste and maybe the city could contract that out and they do it differently. Maybe their people lifting it up, I know this is for automated, but did the city just look into contracting out for yard waste only.

Mayor Coyne responded let me give you a comparable cost; in 2014 it cost the city about \$187.00 a home with city workers picking up rubbish; paying for gas and everything else. It is estimated in 2015 if the city makes the capital improvements that have to be made it's about \$206.00 per home and in this proposal it is about \$173.00 per home. Also Council has to remember that it certainly would be cheaper if there were no issues with the trucks and the cans to deal with. What I'm saying is we are addressing the city's operational deficiencies here to a very strong point and the issue are the capital demands. For example if the city has to buy these trucks given what the engineer has provided we are probably going to have, if we had this in there, after whatever commitments the city has right now for leases have about \$600,000 for capital needs for the city for 2015; and that is not really sufficient to do anything. So again most of the time has been spent dealing with the operational side and the real savings in this to the city is on the capital side and an ability to perform a multitude of city services that are not being performed right now.

Mr. Troyer stated to Service Director Cayet has the city looked into privatizing the yard waste pickup and are there any capital expenditures needed to do basic rubbish pickup; not including yard waste or bulk pickup.

Mr. Cayet responded no, I did not see to split it up. Those trucks have a life expectancy of about ten years and then the trucks need to be rotated. After seven years a new truck should be purchased; eight years buy another and nine years buy another one to rotate the trucks in and out. As far as the rear-loaders the city has the average age are 12 years and the city has a few that are 27 years old and the newest truck was brought about five years ago. The department has a fleet of those that are not very dependable and I asked my head mechanic to be here this evening but he was unable to make the meeting to provide a better idea on that.

**Discussion: cont.**

No, we did not look at bulk only nor did we look at yard waste only and I don't even know if someone would want to come and do that.

Mr. Troyer stated but there's no immediate capital expenditures needed...

Mayor Coyne interjected the answer to that question is yes there is \$230,000.00...

Mr. Troyer – Point of Order

Mr. Cayet stated capital expenditures the city still owes almost \$900,000.00...

Mr. Troyer interjected okay just to pay for the trucks that the city already has.

Mr. Cayet concurred.

Mr. Troyer continued but the city is not in any immediate need of any new trucks or cans besides maybe for the smaller ones for the basic rubbish.

Mr. Cayet responded no, you are correct.

Mayor Coyne stated there is \$230,000.00 that will come out of the capital fund this year to pay the lease for the trucks so the answer to the question is yes.

Mr. Burgio stated I'm always a little skeptical when getting things like this because sometimes it looks different than what it is. That may not be the case this time but I remember when Council was contemplating the automatic trash hauling several years ago and I think Council was under the impression that the city would save about \$1 million dollars, if I'm not mistaken. I don't think the city has even come close to saving that much although I think some monies are being saved on it. My question is Republic would be buying all new cans is that correct?

Mr. Cayet responded no, Republic would be taking over the cans the city currently has.

Mr. Burgio asked would any service workers be lost as part of this plan.

Mr. Cayet responded no, not at all, as a matter of fact there would be a better service department because the individuals working on city sewers that have been neglected; when cameras are placed in the sewers to see what is going on it is astonishing what is seen. Also the city's roads are popping like peanut brittle and luckily this year Route 237 is going to be worked on by the state, which will help the city out for quite a few years to come. The city engineer will probably have a report at the Regular Council meeting about the talks going on with Snow Road. The side roads are in bad shape and there will be crews to get them back in shape going forward but nobody will lose their job and nothing else will be contracted out

**Discussion: cont.**

for the remainder of this contract and we met with the leadership of the union the other day and wrote up a draft for them to meet with their men to discuss this, not sure if that has been done as of yet.

Mr. Burgio commented I will be interested to see what the unions' take is on this; these one man trucks if the city pursues this?

Mr. Cayet responded yes they are.

Mr. Burgio continued with the cost of \$14.40 per home will the residents' be paying that or is that a figure of what it would cost per home to do this?

Mr. Cayet responded no, this will come out of the General Fund as it does currently and the agreement with the provider is one bulk pickup a month, where the city has two now, and four special pickups for individuals where the city only has two now per year. Also Republic would pick up extra bags and trash that are put out on a weekly basis on the bulk pickup.

Mr. Higgins stated maybe we could have Mr. Kidder come to the podium because he came a long way and probably would like to talk a little bit and I have a couple of questions.

**Dave Kidder**  
**22730 Fairview Center Drive**  
**Fairview Park, OH**

Mr. Higgins stated as a disclaimer I think most of you know that I've have a relationship with Mr. Kidder for probably eleven years because they do the services in the city where I work; and have a good working relationship with Mr. Kidder. One of the most difficult tasks is the yard waste would you agree with that?

Mr. Kidder responded yes.

Mr. Higgins stated at one time I think about a year ago I talked to you and Republic Services was thinking about rolling out a pilot program for yard waste using automated cans. Has Republic decided to move with that or has the company moved anywhere with that?

Mr. Kidder responded around the country there has been that movement to put yard waste into automated cans but not locally Republic has not been done yet. Republic planned to do it last year and the May floods kind of wiped out pilot program that Republic thought about doing last year. The yard waste is the toughest job that anybody is going to do with picking up that by hand.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Higgins stated I can attest to that probably about 20 years ago I took a tour behind a rubbish truck on a yard waste day and a regular trash day and the yard waste day is very difficult. A lot of people don't understand that when crews are picking up yard waste can at arms length and a couple feet high on a truck and turn it upside down usually a tap is needed on the side of the truck so that the can is emptied, very difficult job. Mr. Higgins stated having said that Mr. Troyer was asking about sub-contracting out grass only. If the city were to put out a bid for grass only would Republic Services bid on that contract.

Mr. Kidder responded I would say no.

Mr. Higgins continued because the company doesn't have the truck or the manpower just hanging around for seasonal work.

Mr. Kidder concurred.

Mr. Higgins asked if it known of any other providers out there that would bid on such a contract.

Mr. Kidder responded I would doubt it because it is seasonal.

Mr. Higgins stated that's what I was thinking the last few weeks because that's the biggest headache with the rubbish removal is the yard waste and the city has an aging group of city workers in the service garage also.

Mr. Cayet stated to Mr. Higgins that is good question brought up about automated trucks with yard waste. There is a new truck that came out this summer and when John Pensis and I asked Joe from Best Products to ask the manufacturer if there is any type of documentation or any type of data on yard waste with an automated truck, a side-loader; they told us no they don't. Cuyahoga Falls does yard waste with automated trucks using a front-loader or tipper. The driver can look and physically see what is coming in the front and being dumped into a dumpster; then the front dumpster gets dumped into the back of the truck. With the arm comes off the side and brings the can along the back and the operator can see what is going on with the camera system that is on those trucks. We were going to take one of the city trucks out there but didn't want the liability so we went out to Cuyahoga Falls and witnessed the truck going out and picking up the yard waste to see if the truck could handle, compress and compact the yard waste to see if it would come out clean and it did. So now Best Products and the company that makes those trucks have some type of data that can be used to answer those questions.

Mrs. Powers stated to Mr. Cayet how many automated does the city own now?

Mr. Cayet the city has three.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mrs. Powers continued and they should last approximately ten years?

Mr. Cayet responded that is the industry states, yes.

Mrs. Powers continued if the city gives away its trucks, sell or give away the city trucks and rubbish cans then it's kind of a no turning back situation for the city, is that right? Because the city would have to start at nothing to do this all over again and the way I'm looking at this would be an extra expense for the city because the city isn't supposed to be laying off anymore people. So if city crews are doing this service now and have been doing this in past years I see no problem with city crews continuing to do this service. Because if they were doing it then they should do it now because if the city isn't going to layoff any more people which I don't think we should then an extra expense is being created for ourselves. If the city is keeping all of their personnel that we have right now and contracting this service out that's an extra expense. If you don't have enough people then maybe some of the ones that were laid-off should be called back.

Mayor Coyne commented the fact is yes city crews were doing this service last year but what crews were not doing, however, is cleaning the city's sewers, sweeping the streets and fixing the roads and other matters that have to have attention, city crews were not doing that. So part of this proposal is taking the existing workforce that the city has right now, with no further layoffs, and I know you want to balance the budget; if you look at the major way to get there is by reducing the expenses as we have of \$1.6 million dollars, so we need to change the way you deliver services. I see how you suggesting is giving trucks away the city is selling the trucks and the cans that are part of one lease. The city even looked at keeping the cans but the way the lease is structured it doesn't make a lot of sense to do that. Now I know the decision was made then and was made for the right reasons under the right circumstances of the city at the time; they have changed. So here is what your choice is what this does now with the reduction in force it gives the city the ability to redeploy workers that are here now and are extremely more qualified to do this work and address city needs and reducing the city's capital expenses because that's where it really saves money. So, therefore, if you don't make a change at this point in time your capital expenses are going to increase and if you do that you will be in this business a long time. Now I have heard this going back to when I was a rubbish man that if the rubbish trucks are sold the city can't get back in the business ever again, I'm not aware of a city in the last decade that has done that and we are a unique experience and if our financial conditions were different, alright, we might be able to continue doing these things this way. They are not and they're not going to change anytime soon so everyone talks about making tough decisions this isn't really a tough decision but it's one that needs to be made. If Council keeps avoiding this it will hit you sooner or later so Council needs to make a decision that will affect this city for a long, long time. So the question is when residents call about sewers being blocked or this or that problem or the catch-basins are caving in we can put an orange cone in front of it that can

**Discussion: cont.**

sit there for two years or the service director can deploy crews on a daily basis. Last year it was mentioned that the service director had to make daily decisions as to picking up rubbish and do what else with the manpower. We're not increasing the work force and you don't have the money to bring them back and layoffs are not something that I entertain as something being routine and can be going back and forth. There are a lot of issues that I still have with this budget but in this particular instance if Council does not want to contract out this portion of delivering city services then the capital expenditures are going to come into play and to me I don't think that is a wise expenditure of your money at this point in time because I see more cities getting out of this business than getting in. Some people never had their own rubbish pickup cities didn't own trucks to deal with. I think this is a fair offer to the city and you can see by what the city paid for the trucks and cans and what the city would be getting for them, I think it's reasonable and we had a use for a couple of years. There are two service directors here and they will tell you that a life of something is ten years it depends on a lot of things. This city has other capital needs such as plow trucks just imagine if we had three or four plow trucks go down this year. A lot of those trucks were purchased when I was Mayor the first time and the city doesn't have very many new trucks. What would happen then you're not going to have the resources to do it so you have to take Capital as well as Operating and make the best decisions with what you have so if Council chooses not to allow me to move forward in this operative mode then I will have to have the capital monies to address particularly those yard waste issues and it's not going to be cheap.

Mrs. Powers stated I see what we're selling the trucks for what we're letting them go for. What is it going to cost us per year to have this service come and pick up rubbish for us and what will it cost the city to bring back the laid off workers. In 2013 the city was doing street repairs and so forth and last year a street was repaired that is falling apart already and nobody seems to be concerned, except me, that we're still paying for it.

Mr. Patten asked who is your question too, the Mayor or Service Director.

Mrs. Powers to the Finance Director, he handles the money I think.

Mr. Cingle stated to Councilwoman Powers can you re-ask or restate the question?

Mrs. Powers asked how much is it going to cost us to privatize the rubbish per year and how much will it cost the city to bring back our laid off workers.

Mr. Cingle responded if I'm reading the proposal correctly it looks like its \$14.40 a household per month times 12 months. I think there are approximately 7100 or 7200 households so it looks to me...

Mayor Coyne interjected \$7,280.00 per year.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Cingle stated I'm looking at analyzed cost of 7,150 households at \$1,235,000.00 for year one. As far as how much it costs to bring back the laid off workers I would have to go back and run those figures because this is the first I saw this proposal 20 minutes ago; so we're looking at an answer tomorrow.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Troyer stated to Service Director Cayet is the city still going to be collecting leaves, how will that be handled.

Mr. Cayet responded the city's leaf program will continue.

Mr. Troyer thanked Mr. Kidder for coming up and you answered a question about the yard waste. Have you ever done leaf pickup?

Mr. Kidder responded no.

Mr. Troyer continued have you ever considered or looked into only doing yard waste?

Mr. Kidder responded there are a number of issues there, number one it is seasonal and number two is trying to work with another group of people. It would be like having two different companies; the schedules would get perplexed because one wants to pick up yard waste on one day and one wants to pick up rubbish on a different day. The idea of this program was to keep everything going as it has been with the city on the same day; yard waste, rubbish, recycling and bulk, nobody has to put separate items out on different days that why we haven't done that.

**Motion** by Mr. D'Amico, supported by Mr. Salvatore, that item number two was discussed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

### 3. ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRESENTATION – PER MAYOR COYNE

**James Wilbanks**  
6800 Eastland Road  
Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130

Mr. Wilbanks stated being a long-term partner with the City of Brook Park Brewer Garrett has certainly has regular conversations with the Mayor and the operating staff. A few months back Brewer Garrett was asked to take a look and made some considerations to some improvements and repurposing efforts that were being considered for the Recreation Center. While this certainly a scope of work and type of work that our company does there are many different facets to what we do and how we do it. Because of the partnership and our knowledge of the City of Brook Park we really gave some thought to is there a different model, a better way to not only address these construction efforts that potentially may be required with the recreation center but then also potentially take a look more of a citywide approach. In doing so what was really looked at and one of the aspects of what Brewer Garrett delivers energy conservation programs that are structured to improve infrastructure to execute construction base scopes of

**Discussion: cont.**

work by utilizing the very energy dollars that are currently being spent. The terminology of a performance based model, performance contracting these are general terms in the industry. What we are talking about is utilizing funds that the city is currently responsible for on an annual basis and somewhere, somebody holds a number that the city allocates for utilities for its buildings for the year. At the beginning of the year in everyone's mind that money is spent and maybe you throw in some allocations, some yes work, on what you think that increase may be from year to year. What we're talking about doing is making upgrades in an energy conscience fashion, making strategic decisions that affect both costs and long term performance of the systems that result in an energy-savings to various systems that we're making those changes to. By taking those energy-savings and allocating those towards the capital expenditure required to execute these efforts it looks at what construction interpreters simply look at which is a simply capital outlet. There will have to be a certain amount of monies spent to accomplish a certain renovation, a certain equipment change, whatever that effort may be. What this model does is utilizes the energy-savings to pay for those upgrades and looks at these upgrades as more of a return on an investment as opposed to simply a capital expenditure. So by utilizing the very dollars, there's been a lot of discussions and a riveting conversation by the way, a lot of discussions about budgets and we work with a lot of different cities and public utilities where cash is an issue. So rather than looking at this as simply how much a check needs to be written for to accomplish what we're doing is there a way to spend dollars that are currently being spent and use those dollars in a more productive way. One of the benefits to this platform is it opens the door to a number of different brands, rebate and financial restructuring opportunities that are specifically allocated for energy conservation efforts. So when looking at the recreation center and if Council was going to repurpose this center there are architectural features that need to be changed; walls needs to shifted around but a lot of that work is going to be dealing with the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) infrastructure, the lighting systems, the windows and different points of ingress and egress that make up this building. All of those affect the money that will be spent on energy and because of that it can be deployed as an energy conservation program. For example, that gives you access to being a public entity and gives access to funds like the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority where our company has done a lot of programs with them and just secured funds for another public entity at a rate of about 1.75% APR (Annual Percentage Rate). One of the Council Members made a comment that interest rates are low and I would agree but I don't know of anybody that is offering rates that are that low. So is this a better way to hold onto the cash that the city has, execute these upgrades using different funding sources and get a creative model that's maybe different than what you're used to but the result is proven out and guaranteed; someone is on the hook for the performance of these systems and the long-term performance of these systems. For that reason what we recommend is essentially going through an RFP (Requests for Proposals) process which is a competitive process and a number of companies deliver this model not only Brewer-Garrett, who is pretty good at it, to get the market place to tell the city what that opportunity is. How much money could be shaved off the utility budget and allocated towards the funding of these programs. Today my guess is the city doesn't probably know what that number is, I don't know what that number is, but we certainly have metrics in place, teams in place and resources in place that this is what we do on a day-to-day basis. For that reason the art of free process is certainly a no risk process for the city and by no risk I mean there is no financial commitment that the city is making in order to explore this delivery model; the city just has to take the steps to explore that delivery model. For that reason with what the city is up against and trying to get done and the different things that are being discussed I think it is a model that can make a lot of financial sense and functional sense for the city and for that reason

Discussion: cont.

that is why Brewer-Garrett wanted to come in and briefly describe this model and thank you once again for allowing this presentation.

Mr. Mencini stated that for the past ten years the cost is approximately \$275,000, you think you can get that lower is that what you're looking at?

Mr. Wilbanks responded without question.

Mr. Mencini asked how successful is your company with the grants and so forth?

Mr. Wilbanks responded for this region probably more successful than most companies because this area of the state is our primary focus. We live here, work here, and know the programs and the nuances of these programs; probably as well as any other company around.

Mr. Higgins asked Mayor Coyne is the city looking at maybe in the future to get proposals from companies to see what they can bring forward. Also, is the city looking at strictly the recreation center or will other city buildings be looked at?

Mayor Coyne responded we can look at them all there is Request for Qualifications legislation currently in the Finance Committee that has been held up until Brewer-Garrett could come so that Council will have an understanding on doing this analysis. Brewer-Garrett has done a preliminary and the city has a report that was done a few years ago that is being looked at; therefore, the city would like to go out and get that information to make a decision. Clearly, the city would, if it can be done, incorporate all city operations probably with the exceptions of police, fire, and service into the recreation center. Bowen & Associates has put together a preliminary layout for Council's review and to be discussed at a future meeting. So whatever remaining operations the city has would hope to upgrade as well and the whole city's utility bills average about \$350,000.00 and change for everything.

Mr. Wilbanks commented backing that up in math and with the experience of putting these types of programs together anywhere from 15% to 25% to 30% savings is definitely in the pocket of what our company has experienced and a lot of that is based on age of equipment, how items have been operated over the years and just simple operational practices; those percentages are a regional range of annual savings that the city can expect out of a development program.

Mayor Coyne stated the city does have to replace all the major units at the recreation center, no matter what, so when that report comes forward don't be shocked.

**Motion** by Mr. D'Amico, supported by Mr. Mencini, that item number three was discussed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

4. R.E.S.C.U.E. PRESENTATION – PER COUNCILMAN D'AMICO, HIGGINS, AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT PATTEN In **attendance: Amy Mason; Peter Loerlier and Jennilee Mason**

Mr. D'Amico stated Councilman Higgins, Council President Patten and I had the opportunity to travel to Walton Hills and visit with Mayor Hurst who had a vision of

**Discussion: cont.**

this program and in taking a look at this it is very practical and somewhat of a necessity in taking care of city residents and their safety; we would be remiss in not showing this to Council, the Mayor and Safety Director that will help city residents' for a small cost. In going through the budget process I think this is something that this Council and this city really needs to take a look into trying to put some funds aside which is a minute dollar amount versus what will help the residents.

**Amy Mason  
Vice President  
Northfield OH**

Ms. Mason gave a power point presentation for R.E.S.C.U.E. (Residents Exchange Safety Communications United Emergency) that is on file in the Council office.

Mr. Burgio stated this looks like a worthwhile program, how many other communities are using RESCUE?

Ms. Mason responded currently this program is piloted in Walton Hills and University and Cleveland Clinic are very interested in getting involved.

Mr. Burgio continued this is a pretty new system.

Ms. Mason concurred.

Mr. Burgio asked for residents' who don't know how to upload information on the computer who would be uploading the information?

Ms. Mason responded in Walton Hills the safety director is initiating the program and is assigning two people to run the program. Along with the program and the USB (Universal Serial Bus) device there would be a computer system that is provided with the purchase of a package. Those two assigned people would be in charge of uploading the information to the USB device and then sending the device with that individual. The individual would not have the password because it is only provided to the police department, EMS, and fire department. The information stored on the USB would be the persons' names; birthdates, listing of allergies and drugs taken, and a medical history of the residents' and a picture of each resident that can be identified by safety forces in the case of an emergency.

Mr. Burgio asked would a first responder be aware that this household has the device on the refrigerator when the call comes through.

Ms. Mason responded that could be a possibility somehow by flagging information in the city's database for dispatching; that determination would be made by the safety director and his two designees.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Burgio commented that would be a good idea so that the safety forces are aware in case the USB device is not on the refrigerator for some reason.

Ms. Mason commented the residents' participation is one of the key parts, they have to keep the USB device up to date and there are different ways the safety director would do that such as one day with specific hours for residents' to come in and update information.

Mr. Higgins stated when meeting with Walton Hills Mayor he led me to believe that information would be at the paramedics fingertips based on the information in and information out in the computerized system the city has. Everyone know in an emergency that when medical assistance shows up usually it's a panic situation or the person cannot respond or answer any questions; so that valuable information is right there for the safety forces. This is a very impressive product and it sounds to me that most of this is in-house information on one device.

Mr. D'Amico commented that the information is put on the USB port by the residents' along with an application with the safety director to flag the information so that the safety forces can access the port and information. Recently we went out to dinner with neighbors of ours came home early and the neighbor suffered a heart attack, unfortunately, when the rescue squads came to the house the spouse is in a panic and the safety forces are unable to get information quickly to save a life and this is one time that will increase that kind of help.

Mr. Mencini stated percentage wise how many residents' are in Walton Hills?

Ms. Mason responded to date there are 500 residents' participating and the program is just started the end of last month.

Mr. Mencini continued being that this program is in the infancy stages have there been any problems?

Ms. Mason responded as far as I am aware there have not been problems it's just learning how they want to make the program work for them; who is going to what to get everything set up.

Mr. Burgio asked what the cost per household is; is there a ballpark for the equipment?

Ms. Mason responded the way that Walton Hills is doing this program is the city is purchasing this for their seniors so they weren't necessarily marketing this towards the seniors to buy into it was the Walton Hills safety department purchasing the necessary equipment. The cost would be approximately \$28.00 for each piece or per unit and about \$3,000.00 for the computer system and scanner. Also with those pieces the idea is to have a computer designated strictly to the RESCUE

**Discussion: cont.**

Program, by no means should there be Internet access or connected to servers or any other computer system; this computer would be strictly for the RESCUE Program. When the residents' come in their picture would be taken to attach to their specific file and other items that could be scanned is if the residents' have a 'Do Not Resuscitate' order from the doctor as well as a living will or other documents such as possible preference ideas.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Ms. Mason if you could identify one thing why the City of Brook Park should do this what would it be?

Ms. Mason responded the emergency response and the panic that happens in this emergency response; personally I am a mother and when my children get hurt I lost my mind and don't know my name or address. Just like mentioned previously when there is an emergency a spouse cannot necessarily be reliable to relate necessary information to save a life.

Mr. Salvatore asked if there is any testimony or opinions from any safety forces such as the police, fire, or paramedics.

Ms. Mason responded Walton Hills seems very excited and is still in the infancy stages but to date there have been no experiences come back.

Mr. Salvatore asked can this be used as a temporary basis as well as a permanent basis; let's say that residents' parents are visiting from out of town to spend the summer could that information be uploaded on a temporary basis?

Ms. Mason responded yes, we could make that work.

Mr. Troyer asked if there is any documentation that Council could review.

Ms. Mason provided the power point presentation as well as the agreement between the community and residents', the licensing agreement and other documentation.

Mr. D'Amico directed the clerk to make copies for all Members of Council and commented that this is program that the city would provide no different than done before in handing out smoke detectors and other items. The items talked about would be a program service that the city would purchase the initial amount to start the program and then through the Mayor and Safety Director a letter could be sent out to the residents' that this program is available through the city. If the city would purchase 1,000 I don't see a problem with the residents' participation and this would be a cost for the city but it is a service that the city is providing.

Mayor Coyne clarified that Walton Hills is only doing this program for the seniors, not the general population.

**Discussion: cont.**

Ms. Mason concurred.

Mayor Coyne continued so for this city that would be about 2,000 households to do this program. There clearly has to be some input work done is there any type of analysis of how many man-hours it would take to input the information for the approximate 2,000 households; because every residents has different issues.

**Jennilee Mason  
Program Trainer**

Ms. Mason stated I am helping out in Walton Hills and will say that depending on the situation for each household whether there are two people living there I would probably say one-half hour per resident. It will take time to get the information on the port but once it is on there it will be very easy to update.

Mayor Coyne asked that this organization come to the city to physically show how this program works.

Ms. Mason stated absolutely, I can do that.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Mencini, that item number four was discussed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

Mr. Patten thanked everyone for taking time to give this presentation.

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, D'Amico**

1. ORDINANCE NO. 9957-2015, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne & Councilman D'Amico **Cau 2/18/15; 1<sup>st</sup> R 2/24/15; Cau 3/3/15; 2<sup>nd</sup> R 3/3/15.**

Mr. Troyer made a motion to amend.

Mr. D'Amico – Point of order, since this legislation has an ordinance number any amendments will have to be made at the Council meeting.

Mr. Troyer stated that's how this will be handled because Council has never done this before where numbered legislation appears on a Caucus agenda.

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

Mr. Patten commented this was put on the Caucus agenda for discussion purposes only with the intention that any amendments would be at the Council meeting; since this legislation has already had a reading.

Mr. Troyer stated so when Council has this at the Council meeting I will be able to propose an amendment?

Mr. D'Amico concurred.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Burgio, that item number one was discussed. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne **P/C 1/6/15; Cau 2/4/15; B/C 2/4/15; Cau 3/3/15**

Mayor Coyne stated Brewer-Garrett was here tonight and all this legislation does is allows the city to go out and get the qualifications for people to analyze and tell the city what can be done.

Mr. Higgins stated we're going to need qualifications and start out with the Recreation Center project stand-alone and Council can move from there, is that correct.

Mayor Coyne concurred.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to place on the Council agenda immediately following Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

Mr. Patten stated that will appear under M-2 as Ordinance No. 9960-2015.

3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1313.04 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED 'GENERAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT FEES' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Mencini **Cau 1/6/15; P/C 1/6/15; Cau 3/3/15**

Mr. D'Amico stated there have been various discussions about the free permits during the months of June, July, and August. Would you give your viewpoint as the city's building commissioner on the free permits that are issued?

Mr. Hurst responded as for the fee increases the department has tried to get the city in line with all the surrounding communities that the city not only borders but also with the Cities of North Olmsted, Strongsville, Middleburg Hts., Berea, Parma, and Parma Hts. The city's fee schedule has been archaic, to say the least, and the

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

department is trying to bring it up to be somewhat equal but just below the surrounding cities residential fee schedule. None of these numbers included in this packet are out of line, most of them fall either somewhere equal or below most of the other communities. This is something that hasn't been done more or less in over ten years to keep up with state recommendations as well as just the times itself. Mr. Hurst continued that the number for the free permits is huge to the department because most of the permits that come through the department for homeowners' or residential properties are given to contractors. It is the department's experience has been hugely that the residents' are not getting anything out of the free permit months. There are contractors that are coming in the last day of August to pull 30 permits in case they may or may not do work. The permits are pulled and the department processes all those permits and either the work is done or not but there is no rebate to the residents'. Less than 20% of these permits are issued to actual homeowners who would benefit with getting a free permit but most contractors quote a driveway at \$8,000 and the contractor applies for the permit in June at no charge to them and I can assure you that no money is given back to the resident. This was intended to help the residents' to encourage homeowner repairs but over the years has been abused by contractors and the residents' are not benefiting from this.

Mr. Mencini stated with the warm weather coming people will be pulling permits and this legislation will bring the city up to date with these residential fee increases; because this city was below surrounding communities and still a little below.

Mr. Hurst concurred.

Mr. Mencini continued a lot of jobs are on the inside and people don't pull permits on those jobs so the city loses on that too. This is needed and will draw some revenue which is what the city needs.

Mr. Burgio thanked Mr. Hurst for all of his work done on this and I counted 29 increases with some of the things staying the same. I noticed that the re-roofs were taken out and just put roofs as one item.

Mr. Hurst interjected that there was no difference in cost with a reroof or new roof and today I would say that one out of 50 are reroofs; people are just aren't reroofing it's a tear off and replacement because one reason is that one reroof has already been done because houses in the city were built in 1960 and two the roofs that haven't been reroofed you can't go over top of them; so the department slimmed it down to all roofs are one price.

Mr. Burgio continued that some of the increases are quite substantial like new construction and fire restoration that went from \$200.00 to \$500.00. Why the big difference is that because the amount was low to begin with?

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

Mr. Hurst responded it was archaic the city is not even close to the surrounding cities with some of these numbers. The department tried to stay below because some of these increases are big increases but these are increases that are representative of every community around here and representative of state fees. If the city didn't have a building department and operated under the State of Ohio these fees reflect what the State of Ohio charges. The city is not out of line the city is 1% to 1 1/2% and something that hasn't been done and as stated the city did things because the city could but can't continue to do that and operate the department; that has been slimmed down as slim as the department can go.

Mr. Burgio so we're trying to keep it fair and within reason and the increases won't impede residents from making renovations to their homes.

Mr. Hurst responded I don't believe that, I believe that if you're going to have a roof put on your house and going to spend \$8,000 to have that roof put on the a \$50.00 permit fee as opposed to a \$30.00 permit fee isn't really going to change someone's mind a whole lot. Again, most people aren't getting that, if the residents were getting handed that money it would be a different story but the experience of the department's side of this it's just not the case.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Hurst this is raising/adjusting the residential permit fees, correct?

Mr. Hurst concurred.

Mr. Troyer continued about the free permits during the summer months is a whole different piece of legislation.

Mr. Hurst concurred.

Mr. Troyer stated I have a hard time supporting both; eliminating the free plus raising the fees. The city has to try to entice people to get permits and if the resident is doing the work and the fee goes up to high and is taking away from the budget to do the work they might not pull the permit. I always want to have it so the resident thinks if its cheap enough and a good deal I'll pull that permit because it's the right thing to do and affordable; I have a problem with doing both and understand there is an issue with the free permits in the summer months and would like to look at that. I don't want to do anything that will raise the cost to the resident.

Mr. Hurst responded I understand that and as I discussed before the average resident in the City of Brook Park if they want to replace their roofs, siding, new windows and driveway the resident will spend \$30,000 and the permit fees would be about \$180.00. If that \$180.00 is deterring that work to be done then the city has bigger issues then what is said. I don't want to discourage anybody from doing

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

renovation work but, once again, the city was able to do this in the past and there isn't another community in the State of Ohio that offers free permits. I go to building officials meeting and to Columbus and people are like you do what and have had people from Columbus ask me how the city does that because the city is required to send 1% of those fees to Columbus; 1% of 0 is 0. I understand and don't want to do it to anybody and wish the city could give free everything, unfortunately, the city can't. Is this an impact if the resident is spending \$100.00 and have to get a \$50.00 permit that is not the case because the city doesn't do that. By looking at this fee schedule an average resident doing renovation work can put a \$8,000 roof on for \$50.00; they can put a \$10,000 driveway in for \$50.00 and if that money was going back to the resident I would stand behind you 100% but it's not; we're making contractors extra money.

Mr. Troyer stated I'm okay with getting rid of the free permits but getting rid of the free permits and increasing costs which go to the resident I'm not keen on that.

Mr. Hurst stated I respect your opinion and all I can do is present that this is the revenue that should be brought into the department comparable to the surrounding communities and most of the state; the city is not doing that and it's obviously up to Council.

Mr. Salvatore commented I understand that the contractors are benefiting primarily, not the resident, and on May 16, 2000 the legislation was passed for free permits during the summer months. At that time it was a great thing and the residents' appreciated that but I do agree with your reasoning and logic of three months is probably a little too much in today's economy and conditions. This is a separate entity of what is being discussed tonight and can be addressed at a later date and possibly offer free permits for one month that could be tweaked that if that permit is not used in 30 days it becomes null and void.

Mr. Hurst stated the three free permit months are on an average of \$25,000 to \$28,000 per year.

Mr. Salvatore stated so if Council looks at this at a later date and did the 30-day window the city is looking at \$8,000 to \$9,000.

Mr. Hurst stated absolutely, that is the reason I split this up to give Council the option of having two things on the board, the one tonight is the fee increases.

Mr. Patten asked Mr. Hurst to explain that once a permit is received the city cannot put a 30-day timeline on that permit.

Mr. Hurst responded correct, as long as work has progressed within six months the city can't limit; the city has six months on permits by state law. If a permit is issued and you are working...

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

Mr. Salvatore interjected but the work has to begin; it just can't sit there.

Mr. Hurst stated there is a fine line between putting two pieces of siding on and working or cracked up the driveway but nothing has been done to it. The state says that the permit is valid and there is not a whole lot the city can do other than try to take them to local court which turns into more money then being recouped out of the costs here. Tweaking is an option but it's not a good or the best option because it will be abused. There will be workers coming in and pull those permits in bulk and there is not a whole lot the city can do about it.

Mayor Coyne stated the thought of looking at this is number one making the city competitive with other communities and being fair. Also to generate revenue to operate the department because if Council remembers there was a proposal to privatize the Building Department and the challenge made to all directors is what can your department sustain through changes in your operations; by reduction in personnel, consolidation of operations and so forth, that is how this proposal came forward. What the city may be able to do while we're not helping them in the permit area is fund a program to help people make some of these improvements, which is a little bit more important, than changing fees. The fact of the matter is this city has to change the way it operates and every little bit helps in addressing those issues.

Mr. D'Amico stated no one wants to take anything away from any residents' and no one definitely wants to increase costs for anybody to do business in the city or do anything to their home. I do understand what Mr. Hurst has said and what Mr. Patten stated about the time limitations on those permits. I think, originally if I'm correct, those free permits were put in place during the summer months when people would be beautifying their homes during the summer months. Unfortunately, buying permits in bulk and doing the work in the months of October and November certainly helps, eventually, but doesn't help for the whole reason behind the free permits for that year. Mr. D'Amico asked where the city falls in the high-low scale compared to other communities.

Mr. Hurst responded for the residential permits the city on some of the permit fees are on right equal with the Cities of Berea and Middleburg Hts. but fall below the City of Strongsville. Some permit fees the city is below the City of Middleburg Hts., Berea, and Strongsville but slightly above Parma Hts.; some the city is below the Cities of Brooklyn, Berea and Middleburg Hts., Parma Hts. and equal to the City of Strongsville; it depends on what the fee is for. For the most part I would say 85% of the city's residential permit fees are probably in the area of 10% to 15% below all of the surrounding communities as a whole.

Mr. D'Amico stated with discussions of privatizing the building department you and your staff came up with a plan and some good ideas. What would you say taking the time to not pass this legislation is costing the building department per month?

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

Mr. Hurst responded clarified just the residential?

Mr. D'Amico concurred.

Mr. Hurst continued through February, 21, 2015 the department was between \$1,500 to \$1,800 losses by not having this increase in effect; that's for the month of January and part of February; when residents' aren't usually pulling permits and again keep in mind 85% of the city permits are not pulled by the residents'. Very rarely do city residents' pull their own permits unless they are trying to circumvent the system and get somebody to do a roof on the weekend that is not a registered contractor.

Mrs. Powers stated Council started this city tonight talking about helping residents' in the home equity business to take their home in order to get the work done. If the residents' need that why increase the burden on the residents' by increasing the permit fees. When the contractor fees are increased the contractor is passing those costs onto the consumer so it's a double charge to the homeowner; for the fee and the contractor's charge to cover that cost. I don't think the city should be increasing fees on anyone because the city wants to encourage people to come in and do work and encourage people to have their homes upgraded; so why increase any fees. Also as far as the free permits I have always been told that if I, as a resident, came to City Hall and pulled a free permit for my contractor that I just voided any responsibility to that contractor; so I wouldn't be able to come back and say that the job wasn't done right. If a resident pulls a permit then the resident is responsible for how the work gets done and the contractor then becomes a sub-contractor.

Mr. Hurst responded let me address the first part of the statement with the increase of fees and putting a burden on the residents. Again, for residents to have an \$8,000 roof put on that will cost \$30.00 and with this increase it will cost \$50.00; that \$20.00 increase isn't a burden with the \$8,000 – 30-year roof it's \$20.00 of an investment for 30 years of that roof. I understand that every penny counts and that has been discussed but back in August when the Mayor challenged every department to slim down, trim down and make their departments as close to self-sufficient as possible or the departments would be privatized. A company called Safebuilt did come in and gave the Mayor a quote on what it would take to privatize the Building Department and my staff and I worked hard and went through every little item in the department where monies could be saved. One of the things looked at, obviously, was where is the city with the rest of the state in permit fees; the city was giving the farm away and if changes aren't made on this part and the free permits and fees the Building Department will not be self-sustaining; having another city department that will be privatized. As for the resident, Councilwoman Powers being the responsible party, as a homeowner who pulls a permit and puts the name on that permit then you are the person putting the shingles on the roof; so yes the contractor's responsibility is alleviated and Mrs. Powers you are 1 in 50

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

that are aware of this. A lot of these contractors come in and tell the homeowners if you pull the permit I can do the job cheaper for you because it relieves the contractor of any liability and the city has no idea that a contractor is doing the work. So that contractor does not have to register or produce a bond and if work crews crash through the house and does not have insurance. So these are all items that are put in place to make sure the work gets done correctly, safely and compliant-wise and once again this may be \$20.00 for one person putting on a roof but in the whole scope of one year it's \$50,000 to \$60,000 in revenue for the city.

Mr. D'Amico stated there have been comments while on Council together about the word privatization and the third element is the Building Department that has been discussed and Mr. Hurst has been bringing information forward. Mr. D'Amico stated to Mr. Hurst that if this component if not passed the department will be headed towards privatization of the Building Department.

Mr. Hurst responded I can't speak for the Mayor but there was a proposal put out that the Mayor entertained to privatize the Building Department with a company called Safebuilt that has been privatizing throughout the country.

Mr. D'Amico stated of this component gets passed you think would be enough of a key component to avoid privatization.

Mr. Hurst responded these two things, commercial and residential fee increases, along with other items that the department has done as well as moving to City Hall and cutting some of the utility and building costs will get the department to self-sustaining.

Mr. Troyer stated in this proposal Fences were \$30.00 and increasing to \$50.00 that might be a smaller job by the replacement of a section of fence.

Mr. Hurst interjected that the department does not charge a permit fee to replace a section of fence.

Mr. Troyer continued what if a new section of fence is being put up from, for example, the back corner of the house and across the property line.

Mr. Hurst responded that would include the permit fee.

Mr. Troyer stated if a \$50,000 project is being done it doesn't seem like a lot of money but if you're doing any foot section of fence on the side and the permit increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 that section of fence may have cost \$50.00 which doubled the cost of that project; so it goes both ways when looking at that and this is something the homeowner would want to do. There are different ways of looking at this but either way the homeowner is going to bear the costs of these increases.

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

Mr. Hurst responded the homeowners are bearing the cost now and nobody knows it; as I said the homeowners' are not getting refunds.

Mayor Coyne stated it has my experience that most residents when doing a small project they do it themselves and don't bother with a permit.

Mr. Troyer commented because the cost of the permit costs too much.

Mayor Coyne stated but that is the fact and to try and pretend that these are punitive or cost-prohibitive to residents' in doing improvements to their home is just not realistic.

Mr. Mencini stated residents' will definitely do a small project on their own but in order to have a good community there is a cost and people have to pay a little more and this city is still behind compared to other cities. The City of Akron is parallel to the City of Brook Park with some high-end homes but also have middle-class homes and as I stated earlier sidewalks, streets and housing have a cost in order for a community to thrive and a lot of residents are saying that they want Brook Park back and sometimes residents' will have to pay a little more to get there.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Higgins, on the next Council agenda.  
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Mrs. Powers stated to Mr. Hurst to repeat what the city would be getting in fees over the years.

Mr. Hurst responded free permits cost an average of \$25,000 to \$27,000 every summer. This fee increase, unfortunately, I don't have the residential breakdown as far as permit changes but the overall from the entire building code, both commercial and residential, with the two fee increases the city is looking at approximately \$60,000 for the year.

Mrs. Powers stated that would make the Building Department self-sustaining?

Mr. Hurst responded other things have been put in place such as the foreclosure filing fees; residential registration fees, and streamlining department functions to minimize the department's costs. The county offers a GIS (Geographic Informational System) so the department was able to get rid of the Realquest service that the city paid for to look up properties; tax delinquencies; parcels and so forth. So with putting these factors in place the staff was able to get the Building Department's numbers look better than Safebuilt.

Mrs. Powers stated with that little bit of money that will make the department self-sustaining.

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

Mr. Hurst responded that puts the department in line to not privatize and puts it as close to being self-sustaining as possible.

Mrs. Powers asked how many employees are in the Building Department.

Mr. Hurst responded five including me.

Mrs. Powers stated that extra \$60,000 or \$70,000 makes the department self-sustaining.

Mr. Cingle stated the projections given by Mr. Hurst for revenues from the Building Department for 2015 include these fee increases, is that correct?

Mr. Hurst responded yes, all the fee increases and free permits are included as well as the systems the department puts into place and the foreclosure filings. Within the last six months of what the department took in and what is being seen with foreclosures those numbers were projected out and all in all the whole package put together for Council in December, 2014 total approximately \$105,000 increase to the departments.

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Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.  
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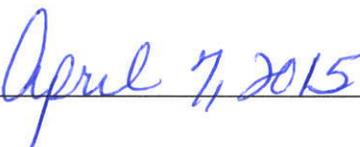
There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Patten declared this meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED



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