

**SPECIAL CAUCUS MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Patten at 6:00 p.m., who read the meeting notice. The clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

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

Also in attendance were Mayor Coyne, Law Director Jamison and Finance Director Cingle; Administrative Assistant Vrettos; Assistant Finance Director Healy.

SUBJECT:

DISCUSSION:

1. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014. Introduced by Mayor Coyne & Councilman D'Amico

Motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Higgins, to place on the Special Council meeting immediately following.

Mrs. Powers stated going through this there are a lot of miscellaneous expenses in the amounts of thousands of dollars. Why isn't an explanation necessary for those types of expenditures?

Mayor Coyne responded there are various contractual obligations and going through this budget trying to make it revenue neutral that was one of the areas to be cut because the monies are needed someplace else. Under contracts the city has to pay \$100,000 this year, instead of last year, for the right-of-way for Snow Road. The other item is Professional Services that may be used for attorneys and other items like that.

Mr. D'Amico stated to Finance Director Cingle that a memo was sent on February 21st on revenue neutral and the two positions in place.

Mr. Cingle responded the Mayor, I and Mr. Healy are still working on this but should have a document in the very near future.

Mayor Coyne stated this is a work in progress because going through union negotiations items that the city thought were accomplished were going to be cost-savings

Discussion: cont.

Mr. D'Amico stated to Finance Director Cingle on page 8 the dollars for property taxes and state aid. Is some of that money put into the police and fire pension?

Mr. Cingle clarified on the revenue report.

Mr. D'Amico responded the Accumulated Estimated Revenue - Fund 711 – Police Pension Fund.

Mr. Cingle responded from the property tax and state aid some monies are received that are recorded in the police pension fund; the fire pension fund and the hospital fund.

Mr. D'Amico stated for the police and fire pensions based off the salaries and the overtime put together and multiplied by 19% for police and 24% for fire.

Mr. Cingle clarified police pension is 19.5% and fire is 24% for both regular time and overtime hours.

Mr. D'Amico stated the amounts of money put in the Appropriations for 2014 reflects from April to December, is that why the amount is less than in 2013?

Mr. Cingle responded that is for the full year and one of the reasons why it is less is because of the proposed reduction in overtime for those two departments.

Mr. D'Amico asked if Council could get a report on the comparison for the fire, police and recreation center part-time employees from 2013 to 2014.

Mr. Cingle responded a report can be created and forwarded to Council.

Mr. Mencini stated to Finance Director Cingle looking at the property tax and how it has decreased approximately double since 2007 as well as the state aid. Looking at 2014 and the projections ahead this tax going to be important and what is the city looking at in estimates for five or ten years down the road with the property tax and state aid decline. What if these taxes do not pass where will the city stand in the future.

Mayor Coyne responded in reviewing this and looking at the city's financial history this city needs to take in an income tax of about \$22 million dollars a year, which was the level probably six, seven or eight years ago, to meet capital needs only. Why is the city proposing that the recreation center be self-sustaining through a vote of the people in property taxes is because those revenues are needed for the outgoing years to operate. There is no place to cut and in speaking with the Finance Chairman we will be public officials, if nothing else, if there are no increased revenues in the city. The choice will not be cut line items there will be drastic cuts in the levels of services for this city across the board. So looking at the city's revenue levels and what is needed to operate and what is needed for capital these two measures will provide for that. Mayor Coyne continued

Discussion: cont

until there is a total change in Columbus as Mr. Higgins stated surpluses are being created on the backs of the schools and cities and I don't see that changing any time soon. So the reality is this city has to find a way to fund operational expenses and if the recreation center tax mill is passed that gives the city the ability inside the operating funds of the city to provide the costs for labor and services on the operating side.

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

Mr. Patten stated that will appear as Ordinance No. 9902-2014.

2. A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF OLMSTED FALLS AND OLMSTED TOWNSHIP AT THE SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH CENTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne and Council Members Troyer, Mencini, Powers, Higgins, Burgio, D'Amico, Salvatore, Council President Patten

Mayor Coyne stated the reason for this is there was a grant that was afforded of about \$900,000 to Olmsted Falls and the City of Brook Park and another city. The city is now looking to put this in Southwest General Hospital central dispatch center and in speaking with Mayor Starr of the City of Middleburg Hts. he has shown interest. What we're trying to do is bring all the cities in the area into this facility. This legislation does not commit the city to anything and by showing this interest Congress or FEMA (Federal Emergency Mutual Agency) is going to have to agree to extend the time to spend these monies.

Mrs. Powers stated out of the \$900,000 what would be the city's total cost of having this and how much will it save the city over the long term?

Mayor Coyne responded that this is still a work in progress and a study was done that is currently being looked. So the \$900,000 would be part of the city's contribution and the COG (Council of Governments) would hire employees and so forth but all those things would have to be worked out. Initially, this won't save the city any monies but what it will do is save equipment costs long term and my hope is that cities can take the next step with a Berea Court and a centralized jail. Where the city saves monies is with a central dispatch and centralized booking for the city's police department, that way there are no set behind costs where the city has to have clerical people. This initially would be a wash but if the cities keep moving in this direction then there could be substantial

savings down the road and most importantly not losing the \$900,000. The City of Strongsville has central dispatch and in all of these things usually the cities have a

Discussion: cont.

Council of Governments for reason being the city has a representative. The City of Strongsville had the City of Brook Park join at a cost \$250,000 or \$300,000 a year, so every year I would come to Council to ask them to fund these monies. How the City of Strongsville came to this is they just want to bill and don't want a Council of Governments and that is very good for the City of Strongsville but not so good for the other communities that joined. The other dilemma is as we're working through this the county is looking at setting up maybe fewer of these central dispatches and to compact it more and trying to find more central jail facilities. Monies are available for all of this and this is a continued work in progress but currently the city is trying to secure in not losing the monies collectively with the other cities.

Mr. D'Amico stated there are also other great things that might come along with this and one thing that a monetary value can't be put on is the safety of the people. This will add safety for emergency medical dispatching and coordination of mutual aid. Although there won't be regional districting right now as far as mutual aid there will be all these people in one room to ask where the other ambulance and fire personnel are at this point. The other thing about emergency mutual aid is that it allows for one person to be freed up while the other person is assisting the patient, so these are all great things outside of the money that is time sensitive.

Mr. Mencini stated the Cities of Berea and Middleburg Hts. don't want to partner on this?

Mayor Coyne responded by way of background usually in matters of this the fire department is the first one to grasp these concepts, the police departments are a little bit slower to analyze. The city has gone through this for years in things that have been done in all types of communications. The police have a concern about not losing the central dispatch but about the dispatchers who do the booking of prisoners and clerical work. Both the city's police and fire chiefs are on board with this as well as Middleburg Hts. Fire Chief and this makes sense not only of being together from a hospital district but also from a court district. The background information is the Berea Courts has been trying to get assessments from the Mayors' Courts for years to help pay for the court. By the way the City of Brook Park court costs will be raised very soon to get a little bit more revenue and also because court costs haven't been raised in a long time. I met with the judge and this has been going on for 12 years at least and I'm not interested in just building a court facility but to house the centralized booking and have a jail facility. Every few years the jail has to be upgraded so this would make the most sense for the district and when regionalism is discussed these are the types of expenditures that make sense because if this total operation can be done the city will save a lot of money from capital expenditures. The Mayors are more open to Council of Governments because they can go to Council and say here's the budget, here's what happened and

there is a vote. Where currently with joining the City of Strongsville the city has not vote. Mayor Starr of Middleburg Hts. hasn't been movable for 12 years and has good

Discussion: cont.

reason from the courts concept, so he's willing to consider this under his partnership. The City of Berea is content to just have the court and this is where the City of Brook Park can say that there will be no assessments unless all these things are addressed.

Mr. Troyer stated this central dispatch is long overdue and it is a safety issue and all cities that get involved will be safer.

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

Mr. Patten stated this will appear as Resolution No. 4-2014.

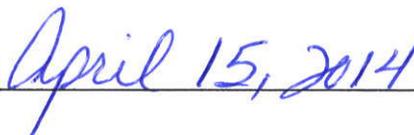
There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Patten declared this meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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.