

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro-Tem D'Amico at 7:30 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

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

Also in attendance were Safety Director Byrnes, Service Director Cayet, Mayor Coyne, Law director Jamison, Recreation Director Fields, Assistant Tax Director Maykut, Engineer Piatak.

Council President Pro-Tem D'Amico excused Council President Patten from tonight's meeting.

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**DISCUSSION:**

1. **ARTS & CULTURE LEVY – PER COUNCIL PRESIDENT PATTEN**

**In attendance: County Councilman, Dale Miller**

**Dale Miller  
19750 Richland Avenue  
Cleveland, OH**

Mr. Miller thanked Council for making time for this brief presentation and am here to ask for support for Issue 8 – Renewal of the County Arts & Culture levy. This is not a tax increase but continues the penny and a half cigarette tax that the county has had for the past ten years. The levy provides \$15 million dollars per year in annual funding for 300 different arts and culture institutions in Cuyahoga County. The levy benefits the community in at least five ways: 1) Helps the economy supporting thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of economic activity. 2) provides educational enrichment for children that is often not available in regular school programs. 3) Revitalizes neighborhoods such as Tremont and Detroit Shoreway. 4) Supports Cleveland's reputation as a world class city helping to attract visitors. 5) Helps everyone get day to day material to get in touch with the deeper meanings of life; Mr. Miller asked for everyone's endorsement of Issue 8. Mr. Miller continued that there is a second county issue on the ballot which is Issue #9; which is a non-money issue. What this issue does is change the structure of the county audit commission. Currently, the Executive and Fiscal Officer serve on the Audit Commission and the problem with that is they are who the County Council audits and under auditors standards they should be independent. So the new

DISCUSSION: CONT.

amendment will have one Councilmember, five members of the public with expertise in auditing and related fields and will maintain the Executive and Fiscal Officer as non-voting members of the commission.

2. REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND PROJECT APPROVAL TO OPERATE 'CUI SERVICES' AT 15314 BROOKPARK ROAD LOCATED IN THE U7-B DISTRICT. **In attendance, Bryan Gray and Richard Ritter: Received from the Planning Commission on September 16, 2015. Note: Legislation in the form of a Resolution is needed for Conditional Use Permits.**

Phillip Ripley  
508 Madison  
Akron, OH

Mr. Ripley stated he is here on behalf of Bryan Gray of CUI Services of 26385 Broadway Avenue in Oakwood Village. CUI Services stated there were a couple of setbacks that had to be abided by. Basically, the riparian setback was 75 feet that show us being 92 feet away so the business is away from the distance of the setback.

Mayor Coyne commented these are two buildings that for quite some time the city has been working to occupy and having multiple tenants has been a problem. The city finally got the layout and thinks these are two good uses for CUI Services being a landscaping and maintenance operation with no retail sales. This building will be used for storage for what they need and that along with the collision center is a great use for the property with the improvements going to be made and jobs being brought in.

Mr. Burgio asked where these properties are located.

Mayor Coyne responded it's next to the Fox's Den on Brookpark Road.

Mr. Mencini stated there were a few things that had to be taken care of such as the water runoff and things like that. This was a lot that hasn't been used for a while and the Planning Commission welcomes them to Brook Park. This is a fantastic company is going to do a good job at this location.

Mr. Ripley commented this is a great location for our company as far as maintenance and snow removal and will cut our company's costs down and this location will allow our company to spread out and grow our business.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Troyer, to have the proper legislation drafted and placed on the next Council agenda. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION: CONT.

3. REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL TO OPERATE 'EARLS' COLLISION CENTER' AT 15318 BROOKPARK ROAD LOCATED IN THE U-7B DISTRICT. **In attendance, Michael Whitaker and Richard Ritter: Received from the Planning Commission on September 16, 2015. Note: Legislation in the form of a Resolution is needed for Conditional Use Permits.**

Frank Whitaker  
4910 Grafton  
Brunswick Hills, OH

Mr. Whitaker stated the plan is to move Earl's Collision Center located at 11216 Brookpark Road, Brooklyn OH to this location. Earl's Collision has 42 years of experience and run a neat and clean shop and like the location.

Mr. Troyer stated I was at the Planning Commission meeting for both items two and three and am totally for these two businesses coming in and know the owners have spent time satisfying the city's rules and regulations. Mr. Hurst is onboard with this which is a big thing and this is a good thing for the city. In speaking with the gentlemen earlier they stressed that they would like to get into this facility as soon as possible. Mr. Troyer continued that he will speak with a few people this week about maybe having a special meeting to get this done for them because they need to get their salt dome and things set up before winter hits.

Mr. Salvatore asked how many jobs will be brought to Brook Park.

Mr. Whitaker responded currently there are nine employees.

Mr. Mencini stated the Planning Commission supported this project and the company's reputation precedes you and know that you will do a great job.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to have legislation drafted and placed on the next Council agenda. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

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DISCUSSION: CONT.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to go to the Addendum. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

### **ADDENDUM**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PARMA TO ESTABLISH A CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN THE CITY OF PARMA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne – PER COUNCIL PRESIDENT PATTEN

**Note: This subject matter was given an Ordinance Number and is currently under First Reading on the 9/22/15 Council agenda.**

Mr. Higgins excused himself from this conversation due to a conflict at work.

Mr. Higgins left the dais at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Coyne stated over the last 20 months we've looked at various structures as to address dispatching costs and the modernization of the dispatch unit. Back when we looked at ourselves that would take about a \$700,000 capital improvement. We looked at joining with other cities and our colleagues in the court district and had hoped that we could join together with the Berea Court to resolve their issues; the city's jail problems, communications problems and booking problems and weren't successful in that. We tried to put together a group to go to Southwest Community Hospital to have that communications center out of there and some of our original partners decided to go to the City of Strongsville, which gave them very good deals. It was evident with their pricing we noticed that when they gave us our price it seemed that we were paying for the two of them in the excess of \$800,000. So we continued to have discussions with various entities in the area; City of Parma Heights, City of Parma and the City of Brooklyn, and as going through those discussions we determined that would be the best relationship for us to have. It's effective from the standpoint of providing the kinds of information services that we need in dispatching our safety services and other issues and/or complaints of the city. It's something that we feel we have the right partnership to go forward in consolidating and sharing in the cost of dispatching for the cities involved; we think this is a good deal and would like to move forward.

DISCUSSION: CONT.

Mr. Troyer stated this isn't the ultimate because to me I would like to see us with Middleburg Heights, Berea and ourselves I think safety-wise it's the best deal. Safety-wise this is going to help us to have this so I'm for this.

Mrs. Powers stated there are too many unanswered questions: What is it costing us now, what will it cost us and I've seen the cost figures by going to the City of Parma. According to this legislation it's going to cost the city \$1,000 a day plus if and when they want to add 22% and if and when they decide to add another 22%; so there are too many unanswered questions to make a decision right now.

Mr. D'Amico asked Mrs. Powers is that a question to the Mayor or a comment?

Mrs. Powers it's both a question to the Mayor and a comment. How much is it going to cost us now?

Mayor Coyne responded as I said at the last Council meeting you have to go back to 2013 because we need nine full-time dispatchers, this is a dispatch operation. So in 2013 it cost the city \$561,000 and in 2014 the city went to six full-time dispatchers and various part-time people including in some cases where there was case of someone being off and using police and fire personnel sometimes was about \$492,000. This year to date the city has spent \$323,000 and estimate by the end of the year by operating like the city is currently operating it's going to cost the city around \$485,000. So while the city is reducing our operating costs and own operation we're doing that because it was our thought that we were moving forward so we were kind of patching things to make it go along. So from the operating side the \$300,000 and change from the City of Parma is a substantial cost reduction. I keep hearing this from the loyal opposition about every year it's going to be 22% more; we also discussed this, Mr. Chairman, at the last meeting. That's not true we have a 22% share of the cost of operating the totality of the system. Right now with the cities participating our cost share is 22% along Brooklyn and Parma Heights; Parma has a larger one because of their size. If another city joins, say Berea for whatever reason wants to join, that 22% will go down based on the number of members and the added people, so it is not 22% every year so I hope there's no misunderstanding about anything else and hope

DISCUSSION: CONT.

Council understands and the people hopefully watching this evening that it doesn't go up 22% every year, that's just not correct.

Mrs. Powers stated at the last meeting you said we had five dispatchers and they had already taken their civil service exams to go to the City of Parma but there's no guarantee that they will go to Parma.

Mayor Coyne interjected that's not true.

Mrs. Powers continued we have no guarantee the dispatchers are going to Parma and you said last meeting that there was five was the total number. So until we get something in writing that says, maybe from the Finance Director, that says what we're doing and what we're paying then I don't think we should be in any hurry to get this passed right now.

Mayor Coyne stated the figures that I gave you came from the three-year annual history of your budget and I'll Safety Director Brynes talk about the transition of our people. If you heard me last meeting they are the City of Parma is assuming all of our people who want to come. One of the city's dispatchers decided to go to the City of Lakewood, I understand, for another position. All dispatchers who want to go have already been tested and certified and the City of Parma is going to absorb them. Mr. Chairman, if you will allow the safety director to address that issue.

Mr. Brynes stated we advised all our dispatchers to take the test in Parma when it was offered with the intention that if this agreement forward they would have a position and move to Parma. They have taken the test and have been ranked under civil service lists, they have been polygraphed, had their background checks done and are slated to be sworn in on a part-time basis on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All the city's full-time dispatchers that are on that list and all are slated to be sworn in. Even on that list is the dispatcher that went to the City of Lakewood though I doubt that she will be sworn in Parma because she won't take that job but was also offered the position; so all four full-timers that are left are on that list in the City of Parma.

Mrs. Powers continued as to what Safety Director Brynes just said this is already done and it seems to me that this one more example of something being done and then being brought to Council for our approval. He said they are going to start on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

DISCUSSION: CONT.

Mr. D'Amico clarified he said they were going to be sworn in.

Mayor Coyne stated you will notice the director said part-time because the City of Parma is going to help us with our transition when we are ready to do it. I don't know, Councilwoman, where you have been for the last 20 months this was under discussion before I even came back; so it's not anything given to you. This agreement was negotiated and you have it and it takes time to negotiate an agreement. We tried in every way to be partners with our school system people, if you will, with our court partners, if you will, to no avail. We're not going to sit back here and allow our city to not take advantage of the situation that exists right now; to join with others because we better get used to this. This is the beginning not the end of these kinds of things because all of the cities are in the same position. This is cost-effective and provides for a good future for our loyal employees who have been here and I think it gives us to put our dispatching and information systems into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. So for you to characterize this as something last minute you have to pass it. If you don't pass it I'll have to deal like I've had to deal with the residue; it makes no sense not to pass it. All of your questions have been answered; all the information has been provided to you. This is a good deal for Brook Park, is it a good deal for the other southwest communities? Yes it is because we're joining together in doing something and, again, this is what we have to do to provide our people our services just change the way we deliver it. So your arguments, in my view, are without merit and it seems to be you every time that we propose something has another added issue or another problem despite what the facts say.

Mrs. Powers stated in the 20 months that I've been here we've tried to negotiate with the City of Strongsville and wasn't successful; with Middleburg Heights and haven't been successful; now this is our third. Have we tried with anybody else to see if we can get a better deal before we decide on this one.

Mayor Coyne responded yes, everybody. Chagrin Falls Valley and Cuyahoga County had a communications system that they were trying to do something with; they weren't available, they weren't ready and didn't have the necessary requirements that we needed to dispatch our services; so we have tried with everybody. The City of Middleburg Heights was going to stand alone and the City of Strongsville went out took the ball and ran with this. The fact of the matter you want to look at their agreements

DISCUSSION: CONT.

they will tell you and it was obvious to me that we were being overcharged so others wouldn't have to pay as much to bring them to the table; we were partners with a couple of cities who walked away. So the answer to your question is yes we have.

Mr. Troyer asked what is the time frame for this do we have a couple of readings on this. I know November 1<sup>st</sup> it takes effect, when do you need this?

Mayor Coyne responded whenever Council can do it. You set the pace of the legislation and again, you have your personal convictions. From time to time for instance with these conditional use permits in talking with the chairman that is something that you should suspend the rules and get thee businesses in town as fast as you can. Something like this, I think is the same thing, because it gives us longer time to transition, so as quick as Council can do and feels comfortable with doing it the administration is happy with that.

Mr. Troyer stated the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting would be fine?

Mayor Coyne concurred.

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

Mr. Higgins returned to the Council floor at 7:55 p.m.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

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

3. COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
**12 page printed booklet is \$2950.00 plus postage of \$1369.41 totals \$4319.41.**

DISCUSSION: CONT.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Burgio, to remove from tonight's Council agenda. Members of Council voted AYE. The motion carried.

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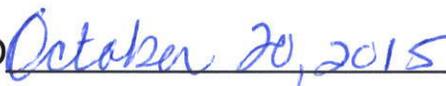
There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Patten declared this meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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.