

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**

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

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

Also in attendance were Law Director Jamison, Finance Director Cingle, Service Director Cayet, Safety Director Byrnes, Mayor Coyne, Engineer Piatak, Economic Development Commissioner Dolan, (7:40 p.m.) Building Commissioner Hurst (7:45 p.m.), Recreation Director Fields (7:50 p.m.).

Council President excused Councilman Mencini from tonight's meeting.  
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**  
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**DISCUSSION:**

1. COMPOSITION: EXECUTIVE HEAD – Councilman Troyer

Mr. Troyer stated there should be a minimum on the police department and the current code section 144.02 – Composition- Executive Head (a) reads the Police Department shall consist of police chief and not more than 43 regular officers. Mr. Troyer would like to see this code section changed to 'not less than 39' for a minimum on the police force.

Mr. D'Amico asked Safety Director Byrnes for the five zones currently in place in the city and how many police officers per shift, etc.

Mr. Byrnes responded I can't give the exact police officers per shift but there are five zones and the fifth zone is from Route 237 west and the others are divided into four zones. There are six sergeants with three on duty; one on each shift covering a 24-hour day. The department has a minimum of four patrolmen that are working with those sergeants daily and that number varies with schedules, vacation and time off. The five zones were modified in May, 2014.

Mrs. Powers stated it is very important for the city to have a minimum number for effective staffing; either 39 or 40 officers.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Salvatore asked Finance Director Cingle what would be a ballpark cost to the city?

Mr. Cingle responded a ballpark figure including health care, benefits and pension costs for an entry level patrol officer the approximate cost would be \$80,000 per patrol officer.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mayor Coyne that a few meetings back there was a list with making changes and looking at the budget to see different ways that business can be done.

Mayor Coyne responded yes and what will be looked at is the Executive Head and the makeup of those ranks. The reality is I'm not sure what folks the Councilman is speaking to or how it's determined how many police officers the city needs when you have no experience. A few Council members talk about cutting so how can personnel be added when the city has a \$3 million dollar structural deficit that has to be addressed. To answer Councilman Salvatore's question specifically negotiations will be opening up and there will be discussions about reductions in sergeants and lieutenants; so there are more officers in basic patrol or less management. Because the city is going to have less employees working for the city until there is some way for the city to get more revenue. This has been discussed before with prior Council Members where the city had a mandatory 44 people and that's all fine and good but the reality is that is why you don't have minimum manning. That is why this city went through a painstakingly fight to be successful in the firefighters contract so there wasn't minimum manning so that the city wasn't driven by the union. As opposed to the legislative and budget authority of the Council and management of the Mayor and that is why the city went through all that and this is another example of demonstrations being seen having to do with minimum manning and nothing else. I have asked all Members of Council and most members have been understanding in letting the Administration get through what needs to be done in order to make a financial presentation to Council before amending any legislation. Nobody not myself, not the police and fire chiefs, not the safety director in any way wants to inhibit the city's ability to provide safety to the residents' but there is price for that. For example I attended a recent Civil Service meeting and this city should now with all advertisements for police and fire make sure that the people applying for these positions have the necessary accreditations before being appointed; there have been police officers on the payroll for almost a year while going through training to become certified. So the numbers being thrown out there and talking to somebody that is not managing the operations to make them

**Discussion: cont.**

work. In a frame of how much does Council have they are literally going to be position to either have union workers compete for their jobs against private contractors or laying people off; this is a serious business and I've said this to you since taking office in January. The reason for the maximum is in good times it allows the city to build and in tough times it gives the city the ability to make decisions as to what is really needed.

Mr. Troyer stated this is just a suggestion and I shouldn't be attacked over it but there is a difference between minimum manning with the police and fire; police is the whole department plus the chief; it wouldn't result in any overtime as fire would or can. Mr. Troyer stated this came from a person very knowledgeable of the department.

Mayor Coyne asked who that person is.

Mr. Troyer responded I'm not going to say.

Mayor Coyne commented to Council President Patten if I said to you Councilman I talked with somebody you would want that person identified.

Mr. Troyer continued I'm very concerned with the safety of this city and think there should be a minimum. It doesn't have to be 39 it just should be some type of minimum and doesn't have to be exactly of the number of officers the city has.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Higgins, that item number one was discussed.

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Mr. Salvatore commented that every Member of Council including the Mayor that we are all concerned with the safety of this city. Now the question is how can we get there and what can the city afford to provide the proper safety with the money available that's what needs to be achieved. I don't think anybody wants to sacrifice safety for money.

Mrs. Powers stated to Mr. Salvatore that I'm glad that you're concerned with the safety of this city and the budget because that has not been demonstrated these last few months. I would like to see this Council get more concerned with the budget with some of the thousands of dollars being spent for studies and etc., and concentrate what is good for the city and the safety of the city. Mrs. Powers continued the animal shelter discussed at a past meeting is costing the city the salary of a police officer.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Coyne stated to Councilman Troyer and Councilwoman Powers I'm not attacking either one of you. If you raise an issue I will debate you if I disagree with you and expect you to do the same thing but to make blanket statements that were suggested right now; I can solve your animal control problem tomorrow but you won't like it. The fact is minimum manning has nothing to do with protecting the city. Mayor Coyne asked Mrs. Powers if she thinks Brook Park is safe?

Mrs. Powers responded that this city is not as safe as it once was.

Mayor Coyne stated so you don't believe this city is safe but you have nothing to back that up. This city is as safe as it ever was and with the special detail recently put on with the changes in Mayors' Court the officers wrote the largest amount of tickets in the city approximately \$80,000.

Mr. Byrnes interjected the amount was \$90,000.

Mayor Coyne continued those monies paid for their overtime so the manning level has nothing to do with it; it's how they are deployed and how effective in managing what they are doing. So don't sit here and tell me that someone told you that and I ask who told you. Because if there is something incorrect if you tell me who told you that then we can demonstrate it is incorrect. There may be some things that I will agree with Council on as to how these departments should be changed and their management; which costs money but to get into minimum manning that is not in the contract now.

Mrs. Powers stated that those tickets mentioned were probably for speeding but calls are received for possible drug problems that nobody seems to want to address and it continues.

Mayor Coyne responded that statement 'no one seems to want to address' our police department cares, we all care and every one of these Council Members sitting up here that have sent complaints of what they consider to be a potential problem, every one of those problems is investigated. When that type of statement is made with nothing to back it up with and if there is anything that you have given me that I haven't given attention to including people shining lights on each other we can't solve all of them; but to make a statement like that is very disturbing to me.

Mrs. Powers responded people say there is a car parked on the street in my neighborhood from 11:00 p.m. for a few hours. People come to the car

**Discussion: cont**

talking a few minutes and then leaves that is not kids congregating playing games.

Mayor Coyne responded if you have turned that over it will be investigated and if found to be more than that there will be arrests.

Mr. Jamison stated I've been with the city for 28 years as Prosecutor and now Law Director and I can say unequivocally in working with the police department. That for that 28 years every time the department has been made aware of issues involving drug activity in this city it has always been fully investigated; that includes the neighborhoods. So I would say to Mrs. Powers if you have information from any resident who makes a complaint to you contact me, the safety director, the chief of police or the Mayor and it will be looked into. You have never called me about anything relating to criminal activity particularly drug problems in our city. So I resent as the chief prosecutor of the city the inference that we're neglecting any kind of drug problem in this city; it's not the case. In my experience we have met on numerous occasions with various people in neighborhoods who have raised that kind of issue and every single case has been addressed and taken care of. So to make a blanket statement that we are ignoring a drug problem in the city is totally categorically false.

Members of Council present voted AYE to the motion that item number one was discussed. The motion carried.

2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE ROCK-N-ROLL CITY HARLEY DAVIDSON AT 4985 WEST 150<sup>TH</sup> STREET LOCATED IN THE U7-C DISTRICT **In attendance: Mr. Scott Hastings: Referred by the Planning Commission on September 8, 2014.**

**Economic Development Commissioner Dolan**

Mr. Dolan stated that Mr. Davis was not able to make it tonight due to a Harley corporate meeting in Washington D.C. This is a conditional use permit request for the Harley Davidson Rock N Roll facility to be located on West 150<sup>th</sup> Street in Brook Park.

Mr. Burgio asked of the 41 people notified of the public hearing were there any concerns voiced or any issues that may have come up before the commission.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Dolan stated none that were observed there were questions asked about the parking of motorcycles on sidewalks and the egress both on West 150<sup>th</sup> Street and also on Brookpark Road.

Mrs. Powers asked for clarification of exhibit B surrounding property owners within 500 feet. There are peoples' names on West 150<sup>th</sup> and the Fairlawn area but then there is also people living in Cleveland, Philadelphia PA. Westlake, Broadview Heights and it doesn't say that these people own anything within 500 feet.

Mr. Dolan responded those people do own parcels and those are the tax mailing addresses such as Philadelphia, PA is Conrail and Mr. Pollock is a resident of Westlake but owns the Fox's Den property and the buildings behind that facility. These notices go by parcel numbers and certified notices are mailed to the tax mailing address for those parcels. The legal counsel for Harley Davidson sent those notices to the tax mailing addresses within a 500 foot of those permanent parcels.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Dolan is everything on schedule and ready to go?

Mr. Dolan responded yes, Harley Davidson is wanting to break ground by November 1<sup>st</sup> and are working on the plans and there will be several zoning variance requests which are typical for this type of project. The plans are being worked on and the hope is to get the foundations in and possibly under roof this year.

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

3. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A LOT SPLIT OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 344-26-186 INTO TWO PARCELS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mayor Coyne stated because of the funding the lots have to be split to assist the seniors and get the federal funding needed for housing.

Mr. Salvatore stated this was done 15 years ago to assist with refinancing.

**Motion** by Mr. D'Amico, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place on the next Council agenda. Members of Council present 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 7:54 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *October 7, 2014*

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

