

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro-Tem D'Amico at 8:00 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, Recreation Director Fields, Finance Director Cingle, Building Commissioner Hurst and Law Director Jamison.

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

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. Regular Council meeting held on September 15, 2015.

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

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**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE (ON ANY SUBJECT):**

Jack Thomas

15913 Remora Blvd.

Candidate for Council at Large

Mr. Thomas stated excuse me while I was coming up here I was tripping over all the wild animals because apparently they are overrunning the city; if anybody would like to follow along with my way of thinking. On the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) on page S21 the last set of entries deals with the number of service calls responded to by the animal report for annual reporting. In the same manner as the report I brought forward about the Recreation Center a few weeks ago I'd like to review these entries. In 2005 there were 64 calls reported, 81 in 2006, 75 in 2007, 127 in 2008, 163 in 2009, 187 in 2010 and 129 in 2011 that totals 826 calls over a period of seven years. If broken down further there are 52 weeks in a year with five service days in a week for a total of 260 days but there are also 13 holidays and at least a week for vacation, which personnel are entitled to; that reduces the amount to approximately 242 days per year. So seven years times 242 days equates to 1,694 work days and if divided by the total number of calls 826 the animal warden responded to approximately two calls per business day, that is a reasonable assumption. Now let's look at what has been reported to have happened over the last three years: the number of calls responded to in 2012 was 768, 2013 the number skyrocketed to 1,209, more than the seven years previously put together and finally in 2014 the number stayed close to the previous year with 1,171 calls being responded to; that's an alarming 3,148 calls in three years opposed to 826 calls in

**Remarks from the audience on any subject: cont.**

previous seven years. Using the same formula that I just gave you if we divide that out that means the animal warden is now responding to over 4.33 calls per day, every single day of the year. So this person is now doing more than twice as much work as used to be done for the same amount of compensation; our population might be declining but apparently the animals are taking over at an alarming rate. So which set of numbers is accurate honestly I don't know but even more alarming I bet those who have been on Council for this entire time and those of us in the general public don't know either. I don't blame the finance director his job is to report the numbers submitted to him for review by Council in the form of monthly reports by the different departments. So, again, which is it? Were the numbers wrong for the previous seven years; or are the numbers wrong for the last three, or is it a combination of both? How are we supposed to ascertain the true cost of a department, help the Mayor to establish an operating budget for that department if we are not reviewing what is being submitted to the finance director or to the Mayor. Finally on a positive note I would like to thank Service Director Cayet for addressing a problem in my neighborhood where one of our police officers was getting his car damaged pulling in his driveway because of the sewer. Also a special thanks to Grant Segal and the Plain Dealer/Sun News for posting the video debate on cleveland.com featuring the seven at-large candidates.

Suzanne Pinti  
5292 West 149<sup>th</sup> Street

Mrs. Pinti stated I thought there would be more people from the Fairlawn area; we're trying to get a group together. The Fairlawn area has had a high rash of break-ins mostly into garages and I've heard into a few homes. There have been items taken from the garages and hearsay items from homes but I only know of my immediate neighbors that had items stolen from the garages; it's usually done at night and somehow they're getting into locked garages. We are asking for a neighborhood watch and don't know how to set one up and would like assistance with this. I'm sure we can get a group of people together and would like better police recognition. The dead-end streets particularly the police are not coming down and turning around to come back and I understand that it's a pain but it would still be nice if that would happen. Also, I used to work evenings and would see groups of four or six teenagers walking around late at night and always called because I got tired of talking to me at the command center and the police always responded so if that could be helped it would be appreciated.

Mr. D'Amico suggested to Ms. Pinti to talk to the safety director to get some assistance with the block watch program.

**Remarks from the audience on any subject: cont.**

Dawn Osborne  
5332 West 149<sup>th</sup> Street

Ms. Osborne stated we recently moved to Brook Park six months ago from LaGrange, OH with our three children; my mother and grandmother have been Brook Park residents for 18 to 20 years. Unfortunately, we have had nothing but bad experiences since moving here between the break-ins and my ten year old that is being bullied by the teenagers down the street who waited for her at the bus stop and followed her home and stayed at my home until the police arrived. The officer told me that there's nothing they could do because technically the teenagers didn't do anything to my child who is now afraid to go to school. I keep hearing from the officers that come and the Council members walking around they know the problem and the problem house. My question is if everybody knows the problem then what is the solution because we're not getting any right now. Our kids are afraid to go to the park because they get harassed up there and their bikes are stolen we have had to go to problem house and get our children's bikes out of the yard and every officer that comes says we know that house, we know the problems but there is nothing we can do about it. I kind of feel that is not right there has to be something; pretty much everyone on the block want to know what can be done instead of just being told we know what the problem is and know where it's coming from. We all agree that we need a block watch or something like that and the last officer that came to the house told me that, unfortunately and these are his exact words, the officers have become lazy they don't want to come down the block and turn around and go back but we are part of their district and route and need to have them coming through.

Mr. D'Amico stated Mr. Byrnes is still on the floor take this resident's phone number to see what can be done with concerns expressed.

Maureen Weber  
15853 Meigs Blvd.

Ms. Weber stated I am the President of the Brook Park Neighborhood Watch that is a newly formed group that currently has over 1,000 volunteer members who are doing everything possible to get the word out. A community meeting is held each third Monday of the month at the library with the next meeting being October 19<sup>th</sup>. We have been in touch with Police Chief Foster, Safety Director Byrnes and many other city officials in efforts to move this forward. We are aware of the situation and need people to know that proper legal courses need to be taken. I know it seems excessive and this is, unfortunately, happening all over the city, it's not just in one area. I, myself, had my car window broken out when parked in my own driveway so I know that it seems like its confined to one area and it's not. I'm not trying to brush off anybody's concerns but we are trying and we've been trying to get people to step up to be block captains to take responsibility to rally their neighbors to get the power of numbers to weed out the small percentage of people causing these problems. We do

**Remarks from the audience on any subject: cont.**

have a Facebook page at Brook Park Neighborhood Watch and are working on getting an email page and I will be glad to give out my cell phone number to anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with the group; we are more than happy to talk to anyone and try to be a go-between the citizens and the safety forces. Incidentally, with my car window I received the same thing unless you know who did it there's not really much we can do because it was something that happened many times on the same day. It's unfortunate but we do have to become more diligent in looking out for neighbors and keeping an eye out of our own neighborhoods.

Rick Mattern  
5050 West 148<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Mattern stated aside from normal children concerns and all the zoning and stuff going on in the city; nobody has ever taken into account that our neighborhood has now turned into the test track for every auto dealership on Brookpark Road; the State Highway Patrol is tagging people on Brookpark Road left and right. These guys come out of the dealerships, hit the side streets and do whatever they have to do but we are not a test track. We are a neighborhood and there are children running around and some may be not doing the right things but they are still children; there are adults that aren't doing the right things. None of us want to get run over by someone test driving a brake job and finding out that something wasn't done right.

Joan Markusic  
13911 Bellbrook Drive

Ms. Markusic thanked the city's service department for assistance with a major issue and getting everything taken care of.

Mike Wimberely  
5104 West 149<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Wimberely stated as well as all the crime that seems to be happening in our neighborhood three of my neighbors in the last two years have had their homes broken into with one being in broad daylight. One of my concerns is with suspicion the drug dealing I suspect at least two homes on my street are dealing drugs. It's a suspicion but it's kind of obvious and makes sense cars pull in people run into the house and return to the car in two minutes and drive away. I don't know what can be done about it but it's something that I think needs to be looked into.

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**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Aviation and Environmental Committee – Chairman, Higgins

Mr. Higgins stated no report this evening.

Finance Committee – Chairman, D'Amico

Mr. D'Amico stated the Board of Control met earlier this evening and approved 17 items.

**Reports from Standing Committees: cont.****Legislative Committee – Chairman, Troyer**

Mr. Troyer stated Legislative Committee has one item on tonight's agenda.

**Parks & Recreation Committee – Chairman, Burgio**

Mr. Burgio stated on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> hometown boy, Joey Bachie, signed his letter of intent with Michigan State University for a football scholarship at the Recreation Center with over 100 people in attendance. It was a great night to see the people of Brook Park come together and wish Joey well. The blue ribbons on several streets throughout the city are for the Sea of Blue to honor and support the city's police officers who do a great job.

**Planning Committee – Chairman, Mencini**

Mr. Mencini stated the committee met last night with two new pieces of business to come forward. The first was a front aesthetic approval at 13960 Brookpark Road for United Rentals in a U7-D District which the committee approved is currently being reviewed by the Building Department. The committee approved the second request for aesthetic approval for new sign installation at 14011 Brookpark Road for Park Place Suites located in a U-7 District. There are two pieces of legislation under First Reading on tonight's agenda.

**Safety Committee – Chairman, Salvatore**

Mr. Salvatore stated the Safety Committee does not have any new legislation on tonight's agenda.

**Service Committee – Chairwoman, Powers**

Mrs. Powers stated the Service Committee has nothing on tonight's agenda.

**Board of Zoning Appeals – Chairman, D'Amico**

Mr. D'Amico stated the Board of Zoning met last night and approved two items and the next meeting will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> providing applications are received.

**REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:****Southwest General Health Center – Trustee, Salvatore**

Mr. Salvatore stated the board met on September 30<sup>th</sup> and passed a one item expenditure in the amount of \$1 million dollars for the upgrade of the phone system at the health center. Also, reported at that meeting is the hospital is extremely busy right now with Monday being 96% occupied and Tuesday being 98% occupied. A recent study showed that Southwest has also increased by 3% on patient satisfaction. On a not so popular note the hospital thinks is a great idea and I'm kind of disappointed but nonetheless it is going to happen. They are going to move another 55 employees into the private sector so the hospital will be losing 55 jobs out of the health center but on a positive note there will be a cost-savings to the health center of approximately \$1 million dollars. All the employees moving out have been offered a job with the company taking over and will be doing the same work, they will keep their seniority and their same pay.

**Reports from Special Committees: cont.****Berea Board of Education – Representative Mencini**

Mr. Mencini stated I met with the superintendent on Friday to address the issue of Brookview being torn down. The Ohio superintendent reviews every school at the end of the curriculum year as well as the Berea City Schools and there have been a lot of changes over the last few years but the Brookview rumor is kind of false. One of the things that Superintendent Sheppard brought up to me was there is a lot of space behind Ford Intermediate and one of the things being looked at due to the big cost-factor is putting grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the front of Ford Intermediate and possibly placing grades K-4<sup>th</sup> at the back of the school; this is currently being looked at for something down the road. Another topic discussed was having the school bands at the city's Home Days festival that the Mayor brought up at a previous meeting. The tough part for the schools is that it is summer and when Berea, Brook Park and Middleburg Hts. have their festival days is right around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and obviously a lot of families go on vacation. Mr. Sheppard is going to be looking into this which is big part of the community. I did suggest that possibly this could be a mandatory little service to be in the band is to be involved with the summer festivals of the three communities. I asked about the school reports that are given to the residents and the school website is very informative if people have children attending and the district is going to redo the website with more academics and outside activities taking place. I also mentioned gym spaces for basketball and the district is going to work on this but due to staff reduction and other items this is a tough issue.

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**REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:****INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:****REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Coyne welcomed the residents coming to the podium and airing their concerns and I thank Maureen Weber for being here this evening because her and Mr. Mohan are doing a great job trying to organize the block watches. With giving your phone numbers to the safety director we will try and see if we can't facilitate something especially for the residents' in the Fairlawn area to address those matters. Mary Calabrese was going to provide information to me about a program 'Light up the Night' that might help in drawing attention but the most important thing is to keep reporting what is occurring. The resident who spoke about the police department knowing the house and the gentleman who said suspicion because many times that's all it turns out to be. It's not to diminish what the concerns are but in most cases when the teenagers come to age and move out the problems goes away but we're concerned and aware of what is going on. Following news reports there have been rashes of home break-ins all over the suburban areas and mostly in the affluent areas of Rocky River, Westlake and those areas; so you may have seen the police chiefs

**Reports and Communications from the Mayor: cont.**

talking about those problems. Also, the heroin problem that is being experienced in this region is causing people to take some very courageous and bold moves even during the day. So the big thing is to keep communicating and we want to provide all that we can to support and catch these people when they are breaking the law. What we cannot do is take sides in a neighborhood dispute because nobody wins; we could try to counsel and the city has a mediation session for that. In the short session that Ms. Weber and Mr. Mohan have had with the law director and police chief about the block watch issue they are educating people on what we can do and how to be cooperative and thank you for the efforts put forward. The city will be looking into the concern with the test track of the automobile dealerships that also occurs on the west end of the city during the auto show; so I have some appreciation of what the resident is talking about. City personnel will be talking with the dealerships to see why Brookpark Road can't be used. Mayor Coyne stated to Mr. Thomas I don't know the point of his report and the questions or comments because the animal warden does more than runs. He has a station to take care of with the animals there and we could apply this to anything; we could say how many runs does a firefighter have in 48 hours; someday there could be several and other days there might not be any. Mayor Coyne stated to Mr. Thomas maybe we could discuss this privately to ascertain what exactly your point was. It is the responsibility of the finance director to prepare the reports based on information received and the finance director has received several awards for accounting practices over the years.

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**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS,  
COMMISSIONS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS:****Service Director Cayet**

Mr. Cayet reported the leaf machines are ready to go and warned the residents' to be careful during the evening hours because a hired firm will be street-striping city streets.

Mr. Mencini asked how the yard waste being dropped off at the service department is going.

Mr. Cayet responded it wasn't that busy for a short time but has picked up with residents' cutting ornamental grass and trimming of trees.

Mr. Mencini stated that he was quite shocked by the condition of the animal control vehicle and asked if there is any special plan for the vehicle and asked if there is a special plan for the upgrading of the animal control vehicle?

Mr. Cayet responded working with the Finance Director last week a new Ford truck vehicle has been ordered for that department that will be delivered to an outfit in Iowa who will place a specialized box on the back of the truck for animal transportation.

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions, public officials: cont.**

Mr. Troyer thanked service crews for the quick chipping response for a recently cut down tree.

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Safety Director Byrnes

Mr. Byrnes stated to the residents in the Fairlawn area as the Mayor stated earlier and I would like to amplify what he said. If you see something call the police and report it even if they are gone there is a computer record of the call which starts to build, lack of a better term, a case and a story that can be researched later; if you see anything call the police who will respond to every call. There may be some minor delay if the police are busy elsewhere but the fact is if you call the police dispatch a report is made and the police will respond; that's a key factor in keeping our crime low. Mr. Byrnes thanked Brian Weber for the 'Sea of Blue' that appeared within the last week on Holland Road for support of the police department, it was a very nice gesture and we appreciate it.

Mr. Mencini stated with the Fairlawn residents they all seem to be pointing in the same direction; is extra effort being taken in this area?

Mr. Byrnes responded I am going to talk to the people that I gave my business card and turn that information over to the police chief or the chief of detectives to start researching that. The department could already be aware of this I have no way of knowing that and would have to check.

Mr. Salvatore stated as Chairman of the Safety Committee I would like to be kept apprised on these matters. The people have spoken and have been at several meetings and do believe that the Fairlawn area is definitely entitled to special attention. I spent quite a few hours walking that neighborhood and talking to a lot of people there and some of them I've become very close friends with and they are a great group of people; we definitely need whatever needs to be done to get this straightened out.

Mr. Byrnes commented I certainly will keep Council aware when the information comes back from the police department. The only thing is I don't know if I can disclose to you what is going on if there is an ongoing investigation but can certainly tell you what steps will be taken to address some of these issues. We take this very seriously and will take care of it and will report back to you.

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Law Director Jamison

Mr. Jamison stated no report this evening.

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**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions, public officials: cont.****Recreation Director Fields**

Mrs. Fields stated for the month of September the department sold 675 memberships which generated \$22,000; for the half-off sales and would like to thank the people who purchased memberships. Mrs. Fields also thanked the Brook Park Boosters for the donation of \$750.00 for the upcoming Halloween event hayride.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mrs. Fields great job getting the people to the Recreation Center; a good thing is that past members are coming back. Is there possibly anything that the people who didn't sign up wanted that the department couldn't offer?

Mrs. Fields responded the department's early hours because we went from the 6:00 a.m. to currently opening at 8:00 a.m. and obviously the aquatics. There have been a lot of people coming up just purchasing a membership to help out the recreation center; with a majority being seniors at the \$5.00 purchase price.

**Finance Director Cingle**

Mr. Cingle stated no report this evening.

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL:  
(INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):****MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS):****INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: (FIRST READING):**

1. RESOLUTION NO. 22-2015, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mr. D'Amico stated Resolution No. 22-2015 has had its First Reading.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2015, GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE CUI SERVICES AT 15314 BROOKPARK ROAD IN A U7-B DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Council as a Whole

**Introduction of Resolutions and Ordinances: (First Reading): cont.**

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to suspend.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Mencini, Burgio, Powers, D'Amico, Higgins, Salvatore

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Burgio, to adopt.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Higgins, Burgio, Mencini, Powers, D'Amico, Troyer, Salvatore

**NAYS:** None. Res. No. 23-2015 has passed under Suspension of the rules. Adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 24-2015, GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE EARL'S COLLISION CENTER AT 15318 BROOKPARK ROAD IN A U7-B DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Mencini, to place in the Planning Committee.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Higgins, Mencini, Burgio, Powers, D'Amico, Troyer, Salvatore

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

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**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: (SECOND READING):**

1. ORDINANCE NO. 9977-2015, 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

Mr. D'Amico stated Ordinance No. 9977-2015 has had its Second Reading.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 9978-2015, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9957-2015, THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mr. D'Amico stated Ordinance No. 9978-2015 has had its Second Reading.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 9979-2015, AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE SPECIFIED ACCOUNT Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mr. D'Amico stated Ordinance No. 9979-2015 has had its Second Reading.

4. ORDINANCE NO. 9980-2015, AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTING ENGINEER TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SNOW ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT (PID 100238) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

Mr. D'Amico stated Ordinance No. 9980-2015 has had its Second Reading.

**Introduction of Resolutions and Ordinances: Second Reading: cont.**

- 5. RESOLUTION NO. 21-2015, URGING ALL RESIDENTS TO SHOP AND DINE IN THE CITY OF BROOK PARK DURING 'SHOP AND DINE IN BROOK PARK WEEK' DECEMBER 7, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 13, 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Mencini and Council Members Troyer, Powers, Higgins, Burgio, D'Amico, Salvatore and Council President Patten

Mr. D'Amico stated Resolution No. 21-2015 has had its Second Reading.

**THIRD READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

- 1. ORDINANCE NO. 9973-2015, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 344-03-055 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne

**Motion** by Mr. Higgins, supported by Mr. Troyer, to adopt.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Higgins, Troyer, Salvatore, Mencini, Burgio, Powers, D'Amico

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried Ordinance No. 9973-2015 is Adopted.

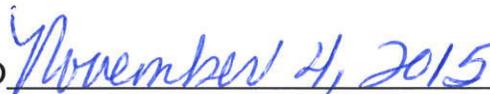
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There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Pro-Tem D'Amico declared this meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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.