

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Astorino at 8:15 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

SCOTT, BURGIO, SALVATORE, TROYER, POWERS, McCORMICK, MENCINI

Also in attendance were Mayor Coyne, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle, Service Director Cayet, Engineer Piatak.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON SUBJECT MATTER(S) ON THIS
AGENDA ONLY:**

No one from the audience came forward.

Mr. Salvatore stated the first item is not on the special meeting agenda.

Mr. Astorino responded the item on the Caucus agenda prior was for Boards and Commissions, the one on the special meeting agenda is for part-time employees increase.

THIRD READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 10008-2016, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO PROVIDE ADJUSTMENTS IN COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY, OTHER THAN ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THOSE COVERED UNDER NEGOTIATED LABOR CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Introduced by Councilwoman McCormick, Councilmembers Powers, Mencini, Troyer, Council President Astorino

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. McCormick, to adopt.

Mrs. McCormick stated the salary schedule of 2002-2003 with the minimum wage being \$6.00 and is currently at \$7.70, so in the last 14 years there was an increase of only \$1.70 or \$.12 per year.

Mr. Salvatore stated the minimum wage is at \$8.10 currently, so it was never amended on the schedule. I don't disagree with the increase but would like to wait and do them all at the same time. One reference is there are part-time recreation center employees making \$8.10 an hour and an

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

auxiliary police officer making \$10.00 an hour; when adjustments are made they should be done all at the same time to be fair; look at each and every person's position so that the compensation meets the job.

Mr. Scott concurred with Councilman Salvatore and stated that Mr. Peterlin has brought up at many meetings during audience participation that we're talking about 27%-28% increase; \$1.90 is a very hefty one-year raise. Bringing in a 14 year-old making \$10.00 an hour compared to the permanent part-timers at the recreation center making a little over \$11.00 an hour; would be a huge slap in the face. Also, I cannot justify paying 14 year-olds \$10.00 an hour.

Mrs. Powers stated these workers have been underpaid for many years and \$1.90 is not a big raise when making \$7.70 an hour. Nationally, the government wants to make the minimum wage \$10.00 an hour and don't see why the city can't be a front-runner by paying our people \$10.00 an hour. The only change would be is that the hiring pool should come from the children whose parents are on the supplemental lunch program.

Mrs. McCormick commented as Mr. Salvatore stated most of these people in these positions are making \$10.00 an hour so those employees wouldn't be seeing the 20% increase.

Mr. Salvatore asked Finance Director Cingle how many people are making the minimum wage of \$8.10 based on part-time employees.

Mayor Coyne commented I do and that's why I'm asking to wait because the way this procedure has been is the union negotiations are concluded for the most part and recommendations are made in Executive Session for discussion purposes.

Mr. Troyer - Point of Order.

Mr. Astorino - What is your point of order.

Mr. Troyer - The Mayor wanted to state what the previous salaries and is going off topic.

Mayor Coyne - I said I have the information and will present it the way the Mayors have always presented it to Council this evening; I've asked from the very beginning to wait and follow the process that's why there is confusion

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

this evening. I know how much all administrative employees will be making and am asking to wait until the Executive Session this evening.

Mr. Mencini stated the 14 year-olds working at the Recreation Center are seasonal and there are not a lot of hours so payroll will not be changes that significantly. Mr. Mencini stated to Mrs. Powers the city should go for the most qualified person for these jobs.

Mr. Troyer commented the job I was at a job for 15 years and received \$2.00 raise for three years in a row because I deserved it.

Mrs. Powers stated income, station in life whether people are making \$50.00 a year or \$150.00 a year that does not have anything to do with qualifications.

Mrs. McCormick commented I requested information in January as to how many people this would affect, how many people are at minimum wage and it's now almost May and no information has been received.

Mr. Burgio commented I'm not opposed to giving raises but would like to have all the information from the Mayor to make a better decision.

Mrs. Powers stated to Finance Director Cingle how many people are making less than \$10.00 an hour?

Mr. Cingle responded I don't have the exact number but do know the approximate dollar amount would increase the annual payroll by \$7,000; the number of people varies as Mr. Mencini stated for seasonal employees. So it is difficult to narrow that down to the number of employees per payroll but analyzed yearly time period to come to the \$7,000 increase in payroll.

Mr. Salvatore stated this is not about the money right now, this piece of legislation talks to only one department, one part-time group of employees. My recommendation to Council would be to reconsider any action on this salary schedule and wait until all the information is provided; to do all the employees at the same time.

Mr. Astorino stated to Councilman Salvatore you stated this only affects one group of people.

Mr. Salvatore responded one section the part-timers.

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

Mr. Astorino continued from the chart available this takes any group that the minimum payment was \$7.70 up to \$10.00 an hour, which is probably close to more than one dozen position. As far as your comment about the auxiliary police the minimum is \$10.00 and as it is known there is a range that is available.

Mrs. McCormick commented a majority of Councilmembers sponsor this legislation and a majority voted weeks ago to put on Council.

Motion by Mrs. McCormick, supported by Mr. Troyer, to call for the question.

ROLL CALL: AYES: McCormick, Troyer, Powers, Mencini

NAYS: Scott, Burgio, Salvatore. The motion carried 4-3.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. McCormick, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, McCormick, Powers, Mencini

NAYS: Scott, Burgio, Salvatore. The motion carried with a vote of 4-3. Adopted.

- 2. ORDINANCE NO. 10010-2016, ENACTING CHAPTER 741 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED 'SNOW REMOVAL AND LANDSCAPING/LAWN MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne, Council Members Salvatore, Burgio, Scott, Mencini, Troyer.

Motion by Mrs. McCormick, supported by Mr. Scott, to adopt.

Mr. Troyer stated the fee is still a little high but as co-sponsor residents need to get registered so I will be voting in favor tonight.

ROLL CALL: AYES: McCormick, Scott, Burgio, Salvatore, Troyer, Powers, Mencini

NAYS: None. The motion carried. Adopted.

- 3. ORDINANCE NO. 10011-2016, REPEALING CHAPTER 938 ENTITLED 'GRASS CUTTING SERVICE' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne, Council Members Salvatore, Burgio, Scott, Mencini

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Burgio, to adopt.

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

Mr. Troyer stated this is taking away a service that the city has provided for almost 40 years and am definitely against that. The law director stated that this legislation does not have to be repealed and let the future administrations use it or not. I will not take a service away from the residents or the seniors; so I urge a 'no' vote on this.

Mrs. Powers concurred with Councilman Troyer and will be voting 'no' on this because this is a very good service that the city has provided and is more comprehensive than what is being given now.

Mrs. McCormick stated the original appropriation ordinance for 2016 submitted to Council did not include any senior grass service and was actually an amendment I made to reestablish the grass cutting service that brought back this service. My amendment was passed and repealed and then a competing amendment was brought forward to establish the service through contractors. It is very disappointing that this service did not come back as a service provided by city employees but am happy that this service will be provided to seniors. Hopefully, one day the city will be able to get back to a better way to provide this service through city employees and not for-profit contractors. Also, during the discussions some people had suggested that certain Members of Council, including myself, have been holding up this legislation that was first introduced on April 5th and it's only been three weeks. The legislation did not get the suspension votes that was obvious over time that additional changes were needed to be made; my vote will be 'no' on this particular section because I oppose the privatization of city services and maybe one day this service can be brought back and there is not a need to remove this.

Mayor Coyne stated all three of those objections are without merit, there is no service so nothing is being taken away; the reality is not counting those full-time employees. The budget was cut \$1.7 million dollars and the program money was provided for by the community development program. The city is not privatizing anything the city is providing assistance for the seniors to contract with someone for those services; so all those objections are not correct and are without merit. The reality is the city can provide services if changes are made to how they are delivered. I don't envision a time again because it's been simplified that employees are hired for specific programs, they are not. The seniors will appreciate this program going forward because grass can't be cut by voting no.

Mr. Mencini stated calls have been received from seniors asking when this program is going to start. To date I cut my grass three times and maybe there will come a time where high school students will be able to do this program. Currently, my point, is let's get this done and get the seniors going on the program.

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

Mr. Troyer commented it was stated that what Council Members said was without merit that's an opinion; just because someone says it's so doesn't make it so. Council is allowed to have opinions and allowed to vote as how council wants to vote. To clarify, what is being done now is repealing the old service and the next piece of legislation is to bring in a new program and what I'm saying is that the old service does not have to be repealed; it can be left on the books. Why repeal something that could be used in the future and was a good program for almost 40 years. The city may want to go back to this old program especially after seeing what the new program is going to cost the city.

Mrs. McCormick reminded everyone about the vote taken in January with the tax credit legislation and the argument at that time for keeping the legislation was Council wanted to remain hopeful that could be offered again. That is what I and Councilmembers Troyer and Powers are essentially saying the same argument to keep this on the books because maybe one day the city's situation may improve and this service can be funded again.

Mayor Coyne commented the existing legislation can be appealed because quite frankly they are two different things; they're both programs. One is a program of developing direct service and the other is an assistance program. Councilmembers are entitled to your opinion but it's without merit because the city is providing a service. Again, this city is not going to be in the position to do what has been done in the past and anyone believing that is living in a dream world. The city is trying to continue to hold onto something that mislead people about before so all I'm saying is Councilmembers cannot vote not against the program and provide this service to the senior citizens.

Mrs. Powers commented on one hand it's been said that Councilmembers would like to see students doing this service and on the other hand would like to see this continue from year to year without having to go through every year, can't have it both ways. Mrs. Powers asked Finance Director Cingle in 2014, the last time the city had the grass cutting, what was the cost and what is the projected cost for this year if the city goes with private contractors?

Mr. Cingle responded the 2014 costs were provided and don't recall the dollar amount but it may have roughly been \$38,000 and as I stated earlier this evening we did analyze this using the parameters that will be in place for 2016. So the program is going from ten weeks to seventeen weeks and analyzed the cost based on a minimum wage of \$10.00 an hour. Also, in that analysis the numbers of employees given to the finance department by the service director and how many people needed to do the job. For the 17 weeks with the foreman as part of the program, the foreman would be used to drive the employees to and from the residents' homes, it's roughly an \$83,000 cost. Taking the foreman out the cost for

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

just the temporary part-time seasonal grass cutters that would be roughly \$58,000 without the foreman.

Mrs. Powers asked if there was a figure of the cost to privatize to private contractors? No one is going to pay that to private contractors.

Mr. Cingle responded the Mayor has been working with the private contractors and believe the cost is about \$400.00 a year for the program and depends on how many residents sign up. If 100 residents sign up it's \$40,000, 200 sign ups it's \$80,000 all depends on how many residents sign up for the program.

Mrs. Powers asked how many residents were signed up for the program when it cost the city \$38,000 or \$58,000.

Mayor Coyne responded 191, there are substantially less on the grass cutting program then there were on snow removal; and nothing is being contracted out. The city is not privatizing anything the city is assisting people with contracting to get their service done. So to keep repeating this word is not what the city is doing it's an assistance program and if that price continues it will cost the senior \$32.00 for a whole season of grass cutting. The city was limited when looking at the cost the city had because of the limitation of a very short period while high school students were not in school, the senior had to have a lawnmower, had to pay for gas and had to be home when the work was being done. This is a much more efficient and cost-effective program and that's why the city is suggesting it.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mrs. Powers to clarify right now the city has a program and my father pays a contractor for service \$650.00 a year with my brother living there. Mr. Mencini asked Mayor Coyne how many communities cut grass for the residents?

Mayor Coyne responded I don't know and don't think there is very many because of the obvious cost. The city patterned this after Seven Hills program for the very same reasons being that city couldn't afford to do this anymore. I don't know if your dad would qualify on the money side of this but if not your right now he could contract with the people in this program for this same service to be provided to him at the same price that are given to the people who are in the assistance program; at about \$400.00 and some change a summer. The aggregate of what the city is doing for the senior citizens, just like with the sidewalk program, is to aggregate delivering the service to bring the cost down for them.

Motion by Mrs. McCormick, supported by Mr. Troyer, to call the question to move things along.

ROLL CALL: AYES: McCormick, Troyer, Powers, Mencini, Scott, Burgio, Salvatore
NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: cont.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Burgio, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Scott, Burgio, Salvatore, Mencini

NAYS: Troyer, Powers, McCormick Ordinance No. 10011-2016 is adopted.

- 4. ORDINANCE NO. 10012-2016, AMENDING CHAPTER 937 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED 'SENIOR CITIZENS AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED SERVICES' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Introduced by Mayor Coyne, Council Members Salvatore, Burgio, Scott, Mencini

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Scott, to adopt.

Mr. Troyer stated he will be voting in favor of this because the seniors do need some kind of program and this is all that is being offered.

Mrs. McCormick stated she will be voting in favor of this but would have preferred that this service be offered by the city but given there are no other options on the table will go along with this.

Mrs. Powers concurred that she will be voting yes for the very same reason but does not like it but since there is no option the citizens need some kind of assistance and this is better than nothing.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Scott, Burgio, Salvatore, Powers, McCormick, Mencini

NAYS: None. Ordinance No. 10012-2016 is adopted.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Burgio, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Matters, Compensation of Employees and possible employment for City Council.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Burgio, Scott, Salvatore, Troyer, Powers, McCormick

NAYS: None. The motion carried at 8:54 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to adjourn the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Mencini, McCormick, Powers, Salvatore, Burgio, Scott

NAYS: None. The motion carried at 10:26 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to go back to the Regular Order of Business.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Mencini, McCormick, Powers, Salvatore, Burgio, Scott

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Astorino declared this meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*
Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *November 1, 2016*

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