

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Astorino at 10:13 p.m. who read the meeting notice. The clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

**SCOTT, BURGIO, SALVATORE, TROYER, POWERS, MENCINI**

Also in attendance were Mayor Coyne, Law Director Horvath and Finance Director Cingle.

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**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON THE ORDINANCES AND/OR  
RESOLUTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

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**DISCUSSION AND THIRD READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

1. ORDINANCE NO. 10070-2017 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore to adopt, supported by Mr. Scott.

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**Motion** by Mr. Troyer to amend, supported by Ms. Powers.

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Mr. Troyer stated that current appropriations for the police maintains the status quo and wants to add a series of amendments to allow for hiring of three additional police officers starting July 1st. It is neutral to the overall budget by reducing \$116,077.22 from the General Fund transferred to the Economic Development Fund 880, 571 and 243. There also needs to be an increase to the Police Pension Fund 711, 412 and 519; there is enough funding in that account to provide for the \$17,072.48 that is needed. The Salary and Benefits worksheet was also provided to Council. The Civil Service process to hire the new police officers needs to be started as soon as possible. In light of the restrictions that the Community Center Project has placed on our Fund Balances it is necessary to prioritize activities of the city. A top priority should be to restore a portion of the manpower to our police department. In 2014 we had 41 police officers, now we have 36; restoring these police officers should have a higher priority than the Economic Development Program. Grants

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):**

and Senior Service programs for snowplowing and grass cutting can be reviewed at a later date. Recent Economic Development Grants have not always been successful. These are the amendments that should be passed in order to be able to hire three more police officers. Amend 100, line 412, Personal Services, 5100 - 5199 from \$4,012,610. to \$4,128,687. There are 12 amendments needed to do this that are listed on the handouts distributed. Council would not need to make a motion to amend the exhibits, but would need to know that the exhibits will be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Salvatore asked Finance Director Cingle if a copy was provided before the meeting?

Mr. Cingle responded yes.

Mr. Salvatore asked if the amendments are accurate.

Mr. Cingle responded number 11 is correct.

Mr. Salvatore asked if by removing number 11 would the mass motion be incorrect?

Mr. Cingle stated number 11 needs to be added because it looks like it was removed; so instead of being \$1,504,512.61, as proposed it is \$17,073, it was subtracted instead of adding it. Also, number 5 on the second page of the appropriation ordinance, it currently reads \$544,314; the amendment as shown is \$544,324. That notwithstanding the proposal to reduce the appropriation to about \$428,000 under Capital Outlay, are allocated for the sidewalk program. If these changes are made, then the 2017 Sidewalk Program will be reduced to about \$69,000.

Mr. Astorino commented it was stated that the funds would come from the Grant Program, what is that line item number?

Mr. Cingle replied that is in the operations line item in the proposed appropriation for economic development for 2017 that is \$100,000; with \$50,000 of that has already being spent for Drabik, leaving a balance of \$50,000. Mr. Dolan is speaking with several other people that would use between \$12-\$15,000 of the funds.

Mr. Astorino asked if the city spent \$50,000 that hasn't been appropriated yet?

Mr. Cingle replied correct, Council approved an ordinance that said the funds would be appropriated and wanted to make Council aware of the impact of the proposed changes.

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (Cont.):**

Mr. Salvatore asked Mayor Coyne if the city has recently given a test for police officers?

Mayor Coyne responded the city is required to keep a current list and would like to speak on the amendments when Council is done with discussion.

Mr. Scott stated the city currently has 36 officers, why is this being brought up since there were no problems last year.

Mr. Troyer replied Council is creating this budget based on 2016 not 2015. In 2016 there were parties held in the city with 400 to 500 people attending, recently there was a big problem at the IX Center and though that is the City of Cleveland they requested reinforcement from Brook Park. Also, with the opiate problem residents are asking for more coverage, more police presence deters crime.

Mr. Mencini asked if there is a quota on the number of officers that the city can have vs the number the city can't have? Was this discussed with the administration when working on the budget?

Mr. Troyer responded this was done over the past week and hopes that Council would see the benefit of having more police officers. There is money to do this but can't use any of the reserves. The thought was take the monies from funds that are not needed right away and fund the police department. Then at a later day pay back monies that were borrowed by amending or adjusting the budget at a later date. Can Council and the Finance Director, come up with some way tonight to get this money to get this started?

Mr. Mencini replied this is a very important issue and a noble idea. Perhaps we could appropriate money for this at a later time, after discussions with the police chief and safety director.

Mr. Salvatore stated as Chairman of the Safety Committee, it would be great to have more police officers on the streets. Maybe Council would be able to establish specialty units for drugs or car theft for instance; or possibly get grant money from the federal government that would help the safety department. Mr. Salvatore commented this budget is one of the better ones that Council has had over the past several years and should be passed in its present form.

Ms. Powers stated that more policemen are needed now and this good proposal and Council has the money for it. There is more crime in the city and more police visibility is needed. If the city received a grant from the federal government those monies could be used at a later time. Mrs. Powers wondered if a company that

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):**

received a grant from the City of Brook Park wouldn't prefer to use that money on an extra police officer; the dog park can wait, the police can't.

Mr. Burgio asked Mr. Troyer if other cities of similar size were compared to Brook Park?

Mr. Troyer replied that does not need to be done and this city is having problems with the police force being diminished, residents want more police officers.

Mr. Burgio agreed with residents wanting more police officers and asked if three are enough? Mr. Burgio would like the input of the police chief and administration.

Mr. Astorino - Point of Order - reminding Mr. Burgio that Council didn't have an appropriation until March 14th; so no discussions could take place about appropriating monies before that.

Mr. Burgio stated informal discussions could have taken place so that Council would be that much further ahead.

Mr. Troyer stated this can be done by working with the finance director by to set aside the money and re-appropriate towards the end of the year, for instance, the snowplow budget won't be needed until much later in the year. Council should work through these amendments and make the changes as directed by the finance director.

Mayor Coyne asked if Mr. Troyer prepared the narrative for these numbers.

Mr. Troyer replied no.

Mayor Coyne asked where the assumptions came from, there is a misunderstanding of the financial report. Regarding the fund balances the recreation center and prioritizing it with the city; the law director knows the city has liquidity in case of a catastrophic event. The Community Center doesn't have any bearing on the budget except for the fact that in the report they want to be able to see the fund balances. With the opiate situation how would the hiring of additional police officer cause this situation to be corrected? Mayor Coyne disagrees that hiring of police should be a higher priority than the economic development program; the real way to pay for increased services is to increase revenues. It's been stated one of the grants was not successful, that is not true. The building was demolished as well as improved fencing and the company is signing the lease to another company that should be coming forward in the next 30 days. As far as the budget goes, this city went through a tumultuous time in 2014 with many employees laid off, police went to 12-hour shifts increasing productivity. Mayor's Court went from \$300,000 to an excess

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):**

of \$1 million dollars and the city is currently operating with current personnel and in real numbers for one full year at \$300,000 per year; the city is currently where it is now by benefit reductions. In the long term in order to bring more people on the city must have an increase in revenues and protect the city on the resources currently in place.

Mr. Astorino asked if in restrictions on the fund balances last week a Councilmember tried to increase funding for crack-sealing and the statement was made that it might cause some jeopardy with the bond counsel.

Mayor Coyne stated the report is based on securing of fund balances for a bond rating regardless of how it was being used; bond counsel wants to see the liquid balances. A decision was made to transfer the liquid money the city has into the roads; other fund balances must remain as they are through the rating process.

Mr. Troyer commented that he had the idea to do this and had it prepared and is allowed to do that. To the residents this is why you don't bring anything to the Mayor because this is what you get.

Mr. Astorino asked the Finance Director if there were other mistakes in this amendment other than in number 5 and number 11.

Mr. Cingle said they were just minor mistakes and reiterated what they were.

Mr. Astorino asked for confirmation and clarification of points made by Mr. Cingle.

Mr. Cingle concurred.

Mr. Troyer clarified that the amendment was to amend 100, line 412, Personal Services, 5100 - 5199 from \$4,012,610. to \$4,128,687.

Mr. Salvatore asked if that is the recommendation of the finance director?

Mr. Cingle responded I do not make recommendations to City Council, that is not my job. My job is to tell Council how much money you have to spend not how to spend it. I can just tell you that 2018 cost of the additional police officers would be approximately \$318,000. The city used to have 208 employees are now down to 140 or so that freed up a lot of dollars for the city including the road program. To reiterate I do not tell or recommend to Council how to spend money.

Mayor Coyne stated the annual challenge to the police and fire chief is to determine if they can provide for personnel that can directly reduce the overtime cost. The overtime cost for the police this year is about \$226,000 and for is about \$383,000.

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):**

The real problem is in managing the city is time off; too much is given. This is a solid budget that provides what the needs of the city.

Mr. Troyer commented the reasons the revenue is up is due to the STOP Program.

Mr. Astorino stated information regarding the STOP Program has not been received from the safety director.

Mayor Coyne responded that analysis is being prepared and that report has no hearing on this budget.

Mr. Astorino commented that he doesn't understand how something that generates revenues has nothing to do with the budget.

Mayor Coyne replied that the police are assigned accordingly, so how that program works shouldn't be generated by revenue.

Mr. Astorino replied speaking with patrol officers and promoted officers, at the time the cuts were made in 2014, officers have said that 39 Or 40 officers are needed to do the jobs. Last year there was about \$900,000 under appropriations and anticipate revenue under and anticipate expenses higher; for \$133,000 and the addition of three officers the community would be safer.

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**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. Powers, to call the question.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Powers

**NAYS:** Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Burgio. The motion failed.

Mayor Coyne stated he never proposed the reduction in the numbers provided in the ordinance, that was done while he was not in office and may have had something to do with the decline in 2008. The money became available when the number of employees were reduced and the change as to how the when we reduce the number of employees that we had. We change the way they operated in their departments and in their divisions. This budget works because of a reduction in force. When council wants to seriously address the long-term capital issues of the city then we can discuss if we still have a healthy economy. Please pass the budget as submitted by myself and the Finance Director.

**Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):**

Mr. Astorino replied that when you came here there were 41 members of the police department and now there are 36.

Mayor Coyne said he was going to confirm that fact.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. Powers to amend.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Powers

**NAYS:** Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Burgio. The motion failed.

Mr. Astorino asked the Finance Director if there is a format change on the Appropriations Ordinance.

Mr. Cingle responded yes, anything between 5/20 and 5/29 will sum to that column.

Mr. Astorino asked about the Safety Account, 711, last year we spent about \$611,000 and this year we are appropriating \$604,000. Was there any cost-saving on the Dispatch system?

Mr. Cingle replied in the contract there is 13 months of funding to the City of Parma, the remaining expenses are as stated.

Mr. Astorino asked about the revenue section regarding the Recreation Center, it looks like membership is increasing and revenue is decreasing. Do you have an explanation?

Mr. Cingle replied that could be a function of the memberships that are being sold, for instance, if there is a change between family passes and single passes, more family passes would mean more members, rather than just a single pass.

Mr. Astorino stated Mayor Coyne the Charter has a requirement that any increases or decreases should be explained to Council. There are several sections in this appropriation ordinance that show increases or decrease.

Mayor Coyne replied costs are going down, this budget provides for the needs of the city with the funds that are available.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore to call for the question, supported by Mr. Burgio.

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

**NAYS:** Troyer, Powers The motion passed.

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

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

**NAYS:** Troyer, Powers. The motion passed.

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There being no further business to come before this meeting Council President Astorino declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *June 6, 2017*

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