

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017**

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

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

Also in attendance were Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle.  
-----

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. CAUCUS PRIOR TO MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Scott, to approve as printed.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Scott, Burgio, Salvatore, Troyer, Powers, McDonnell

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

2. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017.

**Motion** by Mr. Burgio, supported by Mr. Mencini, to approve as printed.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Burgio, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Salvatore, Scott

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

Mr. Astorino asked Council if they would be willing to go out of the Regular Order of Business to Audience Participation.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Mencini to go out of the Regular Order of Business to go to Remarks from the Audience on Any Subject Matter.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Salvatore, Burgio

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

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:**

Sarah Ramic

6542 Southway Court

Ms. Ramic stated she has two children in the Berea City School District; both have gone to the recreation center under Maryann's (Fields) supervision almost every day after school. She herself played every sport there was to play at the recreation center. Since Maryann has been there, both of her children know her personally, they count on her. Maryann has a Homework Club that she does even before the children are allowed to start playing. She's been more involved with this community than, I think, any director has ever been. The fact that we may get rid of Maryann because the new Mayor wants someone else in there is absolutely crazy. She is involved with the children, with the seniors, she puts a smile on her face every single day and knows these kids by name. The recreation center is mainly for our children and how they grow, the sports and keeping them out of trouble. The director is a huge part of that and I believe keeping Maryann around is the absolute right thing to do for our children.

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

Joann Tabanji

14412 Thompson Blvd

Ms. Tabanji stated my son is part of the Brook Park Recreation Center and about to be 12 years-old. Maryann is his role model; he helps her, he loves her, he cares about her. I understand that every politician has their way of doing things but I believe Mr. Gammella should have at least give her an interview to see what she is all about; she has made such a difference. My son was bullied and Maryann went above and beyond to make an intervention to fix everything so that he is no longer bullied and feels safe there. All these children want is somebody to rely on and you're taking that from them. I'm kind of emotional because I know Maryann personally because I know what she's done. My son has been at the recreation center since he was five-years-old and never made a connection with anyone else besides Maryann. Maryann knows every child's name, every adult's name and every elderly person's name. Maryann has brought programs and has gone above and beyond to take care of everybody and everything; and continues to do that with a smile every single day. It is in my opinion that we at least give Maryann the opportunity to keep her position and that's all I am asking for.

Joan Markusic

13911 Bellbrook

Ms. Markusic stated she hopes the incoming people on the dais are open to everything that has happened. They take a very good close look at it and keep progressing. I hope that the new Mayor and the new Council President will not make any hasty decisions. That they will really think about where the city is, the people, the jobs and the positions that they are in; before they start changing so many things around in this city. I think that a big change at one time is not a very logical way of keeping our city going forward. Because these people are in their positions and have been doing their jobs; changing so many things at one time could really upset our city and I really don't think that we need that. I hope the new Council will be less sniping and critical of one another and the residents in our city; I hope Mr. Troyer and Jan Powers find their niche once they've left their seats. Jan Powers is very strong with the environment and I hope that she finds a way to express that and make the environment a better place for all of us. Because when our environment is good, all of us are good. To Ms. McDonnell, it has been a pleasure to meet you and I think you are very smart and not afraid of confrontation, that makes her a strong person. Ms. Markusic hopes that Mr. Astorino has a very pleasant time off and has less conflict and more peace within your heart and life. For the rest of you I hope you will embrace the new Councilmembers and learn to work together.

Richard Mattern

5050 West 148th Street

Mr. Mattern stated he has had the unfortunate task of having to work with the city from about June until now, mainly the Police Department. He has issues with some neighbors in rental houses and the straw that broke the camels back came last night. One of the neighbors was riding his motorcycle up and down the street doing wheelies from one end of the street to the other, that is absurd. Someone is going to get killed. I have

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

been complaining about this since the beginning of summer, I've complained to all of you up there, the Mayor, the Safety Director and talked to the Chief of Police today. I see nothing happening. You are way overpaid, you've done nothing for your pay. You're tantamount to rob the city, the residents, you're employers. That's us we're your employers and you've done nothing and until you do there's no proof that you even try. When this guy kills somebody and he will that will be on all of you. You can't ride a motorcycle on one wheel at 40 or 50 miles-per-hour up a residential street and not kill somebody. The day is coming and I will be the first one in line when Fox News comes to find out what happened, you people have turned a blind eye to it and have done nothing. The police came by last night and literally drove by my house. I had to flag the police officer down and when I did. The officer rolled his window down and I started yelling because I was quite upset. The officer told me we can't do anything if we don't see it, rolled his window up and drove away. Did nothing, drove away. If these are the police you want protecting you that's cool I'm getting out of this town, I'd be better served living in East Cleveland.

Kim Sikes  
6455 Elmdale

Ms. Sikes asked City Council and the Mayor-elect to make the best choice for the future Recreation Director of your city. I believe the best choice is Maryann Fields and tonight you may hear from families, children and parents. But, I hope to provide you with a little bit different perspective. Parks and Recreation are important cornerstones in any thriving city not just luxury. These services bring the community together, provide opportunities to make memories, make friends, instill a feeling of importance, improve one's health and have a sense of belonging. This just doesn't mean spaces and buildings; this means your staff also. I grew up in Brook Park and participated in the recreation programs. I graduated from Midpark in 1992 and went to earn my degree in the field of recreation. I've worked in the field for 20 years and was involved with three recreation center openings and assistant manager for organized sports for the City of Cleveland and continue to work in a neighboring recreation center. To be honest there are several of us envious of the programs to the residents of Brook Park and the relationships that Maryann has created with her staff and community. I had the pleasure of working with Maryann for 13 years and in that time I have seen her do amazing things. If you have spent any amount of time with her, you will have experienced a pure joy that radiates from her. She genuinely welcomes and cares about the children, the parents, the families, the seniors and the programs in the communities where she works. I have seen her be a friend, councilor, teacher and a coach to them. Maryann has instilled character direction, pride and thrive into the children she has touched. She has taught them to set goals, play sports and be a reliable teammate on how to win or lose with sportsmanship, how to keep trying when you couldn't master something and how to think of others above and beyond before themselves. She has even become their role models when there wasn't anybody within their lives or homes. These are things that just don't apply to recreation they apply to life. Maryann is the best choice for Brook Park for the future recreation director because it is actually, simply what's best for your city. Maryann has adopted your city as her own, she has brought a community together and inspired them to be involved. Maryann and her staff have

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

created programs never seen here before, mentoring youth girls, sleepovers at the recreation center, homework clubs, volunteering and encouraging the children of this community to take responsibility for the city they live in, that just names a few. Maryann has enhanced programs by utilizing other city resources in the departments that already exist here thus saving the city money. For example, having the tractor hayrides for the Halloween festivities. The amount of donations Maryann and her staff have procured for the city is astounding. Maryann brought in professional athletes to speak with, excite and inspire the youth of this city. Maryann is what is best for the city, she brings a deep and genuine human passion for her job. With that Maryann brings extensive experience in the field of Parks and Recreation. Removing Maryann as Recreation Director would be a huge loss for the community. The future choice should be made with the sole-intent to provide the City of Brook Park with the best services and staff available. It should not be decided on because of a promise made to someone who campaigned for or has been friends with someone. I have seen this happen in so many cities with the programs, residents and city suffer just because of that. Mary Ann a true gem that shines bright in Brook Park, please take the facts and those of the others here this evening to heart so that the best choice is made for the City of Brook Park. Maryann Fields is the best of the best and the best choice to continue to take your Recreation Department and the City of Brook Park into the future.

Helene Smith  
6480 Parkland

Ms. Smith read a letter that her granddaughter wrote to the Mayor-elect Gammella that states I am, Mariah Smith, and would like you to know that without Mary Ann my friends and I will not go to the Recreation Center. Maryann has made such a difference and I feel that I can talk to her about anything. I love Maryann and she makes everything so much fun. If you get rid of her, trust me, you will have lost a lot because she has brought that recreation center back to where it's starting to come alive again. What will we do without Maryann, she is irreplaceable.

Mr. Astorino stated Councilwoman Powers would like to make some comments during audience participation and I'm going to allow her to make them from her chair.

Councilwoman Powers stated I want to speak on two things; the first one is the Howard-Johnsons Hotel. Howard-Johnsons is closed because of Mayor Coyne because when something is found wrong and is corrected and signed off by Building Commissioner Hurst, something else is found wrong. Both the City and State Fire Marshals say the building passes codes and should be open for business. 24 people working at Howard-Johnsons lost their jobs thanks to Mayor Coyne due to excuses or tactics used to close down the motel on Brookpark Road. The last problem issue is with the stucco on the remodeled side of the building not being applied right and needs to be scraped off and reapplied. The stucco was done a year ago and Building Commissioner Hurst signed off on it and stucco is not detrimental to room rental. The last time I spoke with the Mayor Coyne about Howard-Johnsons he told me the building was in such bad shape that someone fell through the floor on the second floor. When I asked the Mayor for details about the person who fell he asked me if I was accusing him of lying. My response was

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

no; I'm not accusing you of anything. I just wanted more information about the person who fell; did they die, did they get hurt, did they sue Howard-Johnsons, did they sue the city? Mayor Coyne didn't have any answers to those questions. Mrs. Powers continued I have heard when someone abuses alcohol or substances they see or hear things no one else does.

Mr. Mencini stated Point of order, that's a personal...

Mrs. Powers interjected no, that's not a personal attack, just making an observation.

Mr. Mencini asked what does the Council President tell the people at the microphone before speaking? What does he say?

Mrs. Powers continued Council needs to demand that Howard Johnson's be opened immediately. Because the city has already cost this man thousands of dollars in lost revenues and 24 people their income. This city is supposed to be about creating and preserving jobs; not going out of our way to make people lose their jobs. The second thing I want to talk about is with the property at West 130th and Snow, Abe Abdulla property. The last time Mr. Abdulla spoke to Council he said he has no country and then corrected himself by pointing to the American flag and stating this is my country and every United States born-citizen should be offended by that. Most of our earliest settlers were Europeans and were very poor. Americans live by the slogan pull yourself up by your own bootstraps meaning you have arrived in the land of opportunity and thrive by the work of your own hands. After Vietnam, America lost her way only we the citizens can make things change now. Newcomers started housing, businesses, jobs, etc. and no matter how much money you had in your pocket when you came here; you get preferential treatment over jobs while our natives, our Vietnam Vets, our government-war vets...

Mr. Astorino interjected Councilwoman Powers hold off a minute.

An audience member stated this is a personal attack from your Council right now and I don't understand how you can let talk like that to all the people.

Mr. Astorino stated audience please, we'll get to it, I just called her to order and don't need you to interject.

An audience member stated I don't think she should be on your Council staff, 90% of us are here to keep Maryann Fields as Recreation Director; maybe Councilwoman Powers should be let go and hire Maryann back.

Mr. Astorino asked Law Director Horvath if she would like to say something?

Mrs. Horvath stated I would ask for clarification if Councilwoman Powers is speaking as part of the audience under audience participation. Or speaking in the capacity of a Councilwoman? It is my understanding that the Council President this is part of audience participation.

**Remarks from the Audience on any subject matter: (cont.):**

Mr. Astorino responded Councilwoman Powers is speaking under audience participation and I have afforded her the opportunity to speak from her chair as a resident, not a Councilwoman.

Mr. Astorino cautioned Councilwoman Powers to stay from any personal attacks or comments.

Mrs. Powers commented I didn't see it as a personal attack I saw it as a history lesson. Everyone should all be treated the same once they come here and take care of yourself. A lot of our native-born citizens and veterans' are left at the bottom of the hiring list and living under bridges. Councilwoman Powers continued by saying that Mr. Abdulla appreciates America so much that he chooses not to pay his real estate taxes.

Ms. McDonnell stated Point of order

Mr. Astorino interjected Councilwoman Powers and stated a point of order has been called. Ms. McDonnell what is your point of order?

Ms. McDonnell stated Council rule number nine, once again this is a personal attack on a person who owns property in Brook Park and is not in attendance to speak.

Mr. Astorino stated I understand your point of order and get a little frustrated because everyone else likes to interject their opinion, it goes outside the regular meeting. I agree with your point of order.

Mr. Astorino stated to Councilwoman Powers I tried to caution you, you may not see it as a personal attack but when you start naming names and start talking about actions; you're not talking necessarily about city business and think you're going beyond the point of what you should be talking about. Like before talking about veterans that is general speaking but you're a little too specific. I would ask that you refrain from any personal comments that are directed at individuals, if you want to speak generally that's okay.

Mrs. Powers continued by saying the only other thing I have to say is that I went to the Auditor's office and checked tax records and am speaking factually. I said this tonight because this won't be coming up while I'm still a Councilperson and wanted it on record that I tried to enlighten people about what's going on in our community.

Mr. Astorino moved the agenda.

Mr. Salvatore stated I personally don't think that audience participation is completed; people may want to talk after those comments and don't think it should end yet.

Mr. Astorino stated if the Councilman wants to make a motion to extend the audience participation.

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

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini to extend audience participation.  
-----

Mr. Troyer asked for clarification if this would be extended to people who have not yet spoken, or to allow people to speak again.

Mr. Salvatore commented according to the agenda this is audience participation is on any subject and they're allowed to speak on any subject. I don't think it would be appropriate for Council to go back to the Regular Order of Business having allowed the Councilperson to have the last word from the dais. Mr. Salvatore continued making the statement that 'I want this on public record' as a Member of Council sitting at their seat making accusations and allegations that were not part of Brook Park City Council. They were the words of a resident as stated by the Chair and everybody in this room has a right to be heard based on some of the comments that were made.

Mr. Troyer interjected my question was...

Mr. Astorino interjected I understand the question and explained to the audience. If there's anyone from the audience that did not speak the first time you can come to the microphone once everyone has had the opportunity to speak at least one time and then will allow people to speak a second time.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini, to extend audience participation.

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

Mr. Astorino stated audience participation has been extended; if anyone from the audience wants to come to speak at the microphone that has not spoken yet tonight, please come to the microphone.

No one came forward.

Mr. Astorino stated seeing no one coming forward, we'll open it from the audience that wants to come forward.

Mr. Mattern stated to Mr. Troyer, thank you for correcting that and making sure that everyone had an opportunity. This evening has been tantamount to spending a road trip to Florida with a bunch of five-year-olds, I just wanted to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to enjoy it, goodnight.

Joan Markusic  
13911 Bellbrook

Ms. Markusic stated I hope that this escapade here is a learning experience for all of you because a Point of Order is called on resident at the drop of a hat. I find it very rude and very lack of professionalism by a Councilmember is able to, once again, over time not only call us clowns and degrade us but then turn around and actually pulls one of

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

our residents out and drags his personal laundry at a Council meeting. Ms. Markusic stated to Councilwoman Powers, are you so self-righteous that you think that somebody couldn't dig up crap on you, I cannot believe you would even think to do that to another human being. Let alone a resident from this city that you say that you are so dedicated to and that you are trying to serve. You have just made such a disgrace of yourself and I don't even understand how you can sit there for the rest of this meeting. We are people, we have feelings and you may not like what we say, what we do or how we feel. But, you continuously have sat up there and told us that we are not worth anything because we don't agree with you. You know what, we don't agree with you and haven't agreed with you for a while and we have not once come up here and dragged you through the mud. I really hope that you plan on selling your home and going to another city because our city cannot move forward with people that are so narrow-minded and self-centered as you have shown yourself to be this evening.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Salvatore, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Burgio, Scott

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried at 8:08 p.m.

-----

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:****Aviation & Environmental Committee – Chairwoman, Powers**

Mrs. Powers stated no report this evening.

**Finance Committee – Co-Chairman, McDonnell**

Mrs. McDonnell stated no report this evening.

**Legislative Committee – Chairman, Troyer**

Mr. Troyer reported Legislative Committee has three items on tonight's agenda.

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

Mr. Mencini's reported the Tree Lighting Ceremony was at 6:00 p.m. this past Friday and was a nice event and nice crowd; the Brook Park Boosters provided the treats.

This Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. there will be a Craft Show will be at the Recreation Center; this is a good event and are hoping for a good turnout. Also on Saturday, December 9th there will be a Youth Sleepover from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Sunday which is another fun event. On December 28th the Seniors will be having their New Year's Eve dance from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the Youth New Year's Eve dance will be December 29th. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mr. Mencini thanked everyone for coming and for speaking and commented Maryann Fields isn't a Brook Parker but you would never know by going to the Recreation Center because she put her heart and soul into the center.

**Planning Committee - Chairman, Troyer**

Mr. Troyer reported the Planning Meeting from yesterday was cancelled and expects that there will be a special meeting called in late January.

**Safety Committee – Chairman, Salvatore**

Mr. Salvatore reported the Safety Committee has one item on tonight's agenda.

**Service Committee – Chairman, Burgio**

Mr. Burgio reported the Service Committee has two on tonight's agenda.

**Reports from Standing Committees: cont.****Board of Zoning Appeals – Chairman, Scott**

Mr. Scott stated Board of Zoning has nothing on tonight's agenda and there may be a meeting held on January 8, 2018.

-----

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:****SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH CENTER – TRUSTEE MR. SALVATORE:**

Mr. Salvatore reported that Southwest General has been recognized with a five-star overall hospital rating and also named as one of the top five cardio-vascular hospital by IBM Watson Health; the leaders in cardiac care. The hospital was recognized for outstanding quality patient care and cost-efficiencies of care in several areas. Congratulations goes out to Southwest General Hospital. The new Chief Medical Officer Fletcher takes his new position on January 1, 2018 and wish him luck. The first-year employee turnover appears to be better than target set earlier in the year. On the quality and safety measure Southwest appears to be better than targeted and is up in almost every safety category. The hospital's operating margin is better than budget and have realized tremendous savings and performance improvements across the organization. At the last meeting approval was given for the Breast Cancer relocation and expansion along with the Opioid Adult Inpatient renovation and expansion under Phase 1 as well as the 2018 budget. Columbia Township recently approved their tax levy that supports Southwest General and it is very important that all communities within our tax district continue to support the hospital.

**BEREA BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE – MR. BURGIO:**

Mr. Burgio reported at the November 27th school board meeting the district is considering raising the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) from 1.5 to 2.0 for high school participation in athletics and extra-curriculars. If a student falls short of the 2.0, GPA the student would have to participate in an enrichment program. This new eligibility for the for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades also include assistance. If the initiative works well the official board policy would go into effect for the 2019-2020 school year. Discussion took place among board members to rename the Middle School for Middleburg Jr. High to Berea-Midpark Junior High, to match the high school. Fred Szabo opposed the name change and commented that five years-ago schools were name after cities and are now being changed again. Board member Postel didn't see the need for the school to have the same name as the high school, this may be decided at the December 11th board meeting. About half of the attendance at the school board meeting were residents living across the street from the soon to be built new Berea-Midpark High School. Several residents mostly from West Fifth Street spoke about their concerns particularly with the new parking lot and about additional flooding issues that are being experienced with draining issues. Residents were disappointed that they were not included in the discussions of the planning stages and concerned with speeders and increased traffic congestion. The superintendent promised that a meeting will be held with the residents, himself and the architect.

-----

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

-----

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:**

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

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

Law Director Horvath

Mrs. Horvath reported currently there are three lawsuits pending and their status has not changed since the last written report. A final report will be issued for the end of the year. Mrs. Horvath provided a written legal opinion concerning the Mayor's veto of Resolution 27-2017.

Finance and Tax Director Cingle

Mr. Cingle reported the November month-end reports will be issued in the next day or two. Mr. Cingle stated the Administration would appreciate Council's consideration of Ordinance No's 11008-2017 and 11009-2017 passage before the end of the year to conclude fiscal year 2017 and prepare for fiscal year 2018.

Mr. Astorino asked Mr. Cingle if there was a status update on Ohio Checkbook?

Mr. Cingle replied we are still working through some issues with the State Treasurers office and will be talking to them tomorrow; there are a few IT items that are needed to get this project completed.

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL: (INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):**

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Veto of the Mayor:**

1. RESOLUTION NO. 27-2017, TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM ON THE GRANTING OF BUILDING PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FOR ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, USE OR CHANGE OF UES THAT WOULD ENABLE THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING OF RETAIL SALE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RESOLUTION, IN PLANNING COMMISSION TO REVIEW APPLICABLE OHIO STATUES, CRIMINAL CODES AND THE BROOK PARK ZONING CODE RELATIVE TO SUCH USE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Scott, Burgio, Salvatore, Troyer, Powers, McDonnell, Mencini and Council President Astorino.

**Note: Per Section 3.03(b) of the City Charter this legislation must be reconsidered by Council.**

The clerk read the Mayor's veto dated November 22, 2017, in its entirety.

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL:  
(INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION): cont.**

**Veto of the Mayor: cont.**

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. Powers to override the Mayor's veto.  
-----

Mr. Scott asked the Law Director Horvath if a motion to reconsider is needed to authorize the Mayor's veto or go to an automatic veto?

Mrs. Horvath replied the Charter considers a reconsideration and thinks a motion to override the veto is implied in that motion Council is reconsidering the Resolution, it would be alright to entertain a motion to override veto vote.

Mr. Salvatore asked Law Director Horvath if there was a gap when there was no protection for the moratorium, how will that affect the override? Will that just continue when this was actually passed or begin from the time of the override of the veto?

Mrs. Horvath replied there is a gap from November 16th when original legislation expired up through, whenever, the veto would be overridden. If Council decided they wanted to override the veto then the gap would end tonight and the legislation's effective date would be December 5th, per Section 4.09 of the Charter. The small gap will have no effect because no one has come forward to request zoning or anything else regarding medical marijuana.

Mrs. McDonnell stated in researching information and was pleased to find out that the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has suggestions, rules and regulations about this entire topic. What's interesting is this is two-fold and there are a lot of decisions that have to be made and thought through. Cuyahoga County will only have five licensed dispensaries for the entire county, so again, there is a lot of information that was just published. Even the application process for people who wanted to get a license for the dispensary ended November 17th; so this is something that really needs to be researched, analyzed and there was a recent webinar that I watched and will share the information if Council asks.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Ms. McDonnell, to override the Mayor's veto of Resolution No. 27-2017.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Powers, McDonnell, Mencini, Scott, Burgio, Salvatore

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

**VERBAL APPROVAL:**

2. 2018 CAUCUS & MEETING SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE THE CAUCUS PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND TIMES FOR THE FIRST TWO (2) MONTHS OF 2018.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Mencini to verbally approve.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Salvatore, Scott, Burgio

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** Troyer. The motion carried with a vote of 6 and 1 abstention.

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL:**  
**(INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):**  
**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS: cont.**

Mr. Astorino stated the clerk received correspondence this morning requested to be either read at the meeting or incorporated into the record by reference.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini to have the correspondence read into the record.

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

The clerk read the correspondence in its entirety. (attached to minutes)

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:**

1. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION AND PLANT EXPANSION GRANT FOR QUES INDUSTRIES, 5420 WEST 140 STREET. Introduced by Mayor Coyne. **Placed in the Finance Committee.**
  
2. A RESOLUTION THAT REQUESTS THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER TO ADVANCE TAX REVENUES PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE. Introduced by Mayor Coyne. **Placed in the Finance Committee.**

-----  
**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:**  
-----

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

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11008-2017, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 10070-2017, THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

Mr. Astorino stated Ordinance 11008-2017 has had its First Reading.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 11009-2017, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATED OF OHIO, FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING ON MARCH 31, 2018 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

Mr. Astorino stated Ordinance 11009-2017 has had its First Reading

3. ORDINANCE NO. 11010-2017, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GREATER CLEVELAND AUTO AUCTION, PUBLIC AUCTIONEERS, FOR THE PRUPOSE OF DISPOSING OF OBSOLETE CITY VEHICLES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

**Motion** by Mr. Burgio, supported by Mr. Scott to suspend.

-----

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

Mr. Astorino stated Council was provided with a corrected Exhibit A.

Mr. Troyer noted the typographical error with the word 'an' in the title and asked Law Director Horvath if a motion is necessary to add the corrected Exhibit A?

Mrs. Horvath acknowledged the typo and stated it would be a good idea to amend Exhibit A because the city is transferring a title and that person will want an appropriate title.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Burgio to amend Exhibit A to include the Ford Ranger.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Burgio, Scott, Salvatore, Powers, McDonnell, Mencini  
**NAYS:** None. The amendment carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Burgio, supported by Mr. Scott, to suspend.

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

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Burgio, Scott, Salvatore, Troyer, Powers, McDonnell  
**NAYS:** None. Ordinance No. 11010-2017 has passed under Suspension of the Rules as amended. Adopted.

4. ORDINANCE NO. 11011-2017, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH B & BF CONSTRUCTION TO COMPLETE SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS NEAR 21718 FORESTVIEW CIRCLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

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

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

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Salvatore, Burgio, Scott, Troyer, Powers, McDonnell  
**NAYS:** None. Ordinance No. 11011-2017, has passed under Suspension of the Rules. Adopted.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 28-2017, DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilmembers, Troyer, Mencini, Powers and Council President Astorino.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Burgio, to place back in Committee.

-----  
Mr. Troyer asked why this is being placed back in Committee; it is a good piece of legislation from the Law Department.

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

Mr. Salvatore stated City Council passed this legislation earlier this year and there's no sense in passing two resolutions with the same topic in the same year. There are several new members coming on board in 2018 that should be afforded the opportunity to have their names on such an important piece of legislation.

Mr. Mencini asked if the intent is to put this back into committee until the new Administration and Council are on board?

Mr. Salvatore clarified that was the motion, to put back in committee.

Mr. Troyer disagreed that this is the same piece of legislation, it's different. What this legislation does is makes it continuous perpetual every year and also adds the added feature of Council bringing it up at a June Caucus meeting to see what will be done to make people more aware during breast cancer month. Mr. Troyer commented this was brought forward because I said I would do that during discussions with the original piece.

Mr. Salvatore stated several people that are involved asked to not engage in discussing this in June, taking away from the value of this organizations opportunity to really bring it home in the month of October. Mr. Salvatore asked Mr. Troyer in one of the Whereas you have Southwest General's name. Did you get Southwest General's permission to put their name in there?

Mr. Troyer asked for the names of the people that asked to no engage?

Mr. Salvatore stated they spoke to me in confidence and don't have to say who they are.

The clerk called the roll by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Burgio, to place back in committee.

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

**NAYS:** Troyer, Powers. The motion carried with a vote of 5-2.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 29-2107, RECOGNIZING PROJECT EVERGREEN'S GREENCARE AND SNOWCARE FOR TROOPS INITIATIVE AS THE PREFERRED PROVIDER FOR FAMILIES OF DEPLOYED MILITARY AND POST 9/11 DISABLED VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY IN THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Troyer.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott to place back in committee.

-----  
Mr. Troyer asked why this is being put back in committee, this is a positive thing and doesn't cost the city any monies.

Mr. Salvatore responded the Mayor made reference to a Councilman-elect that brought this forward. I would like to afford the person who came up with this idea to have his name on it and have new Councilmembers review this.

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

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott, to place back in committee.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Salvatore, Scott, Burgio, Troyer, Powers, McDonnell, Mencini

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

7. RESOLUTION NO. 30-2017, HONORING ASTRONAUT AND SENATOR, JOHN GLENN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Troyer.

Mr. Astorino stated Resolution 30-2017 has had its First Reading.

-----

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11007-2017, REQUESTING CERTIFICATION TO ENFORCE THE 2017 OHIO STATE BUILDING CODES WITHIN THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Mencini, to suspend the rules.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Mencini, Burgio, Salvatore, Powers, McDonnell

**NAYS:** Troyer. The motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. McDonnell, to adopt.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Salvatore, Burgio, Scott

**NAYS:** None. Ordinance No. 11007-2017, has passed under Suspension of the Rules. Adopted.

-----

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Salvatore would like to address the people who came forward to speak earlier this evening.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini, to address the audience participation.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Salvatore, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Burgio, Scott

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried

Mr. Salvatore stated there are still two meetings for December 12th and 19th and would like to thank everyone for all the kind words and encouragement for Maryann Fields. Mr. Salvatore hopes the Mayor-elect affords her an interview, she is deserving of that and thinks the Mayor-elect would be impressed. Ms. Fields has done an excellent job and is like the Pied-Piper with the children at the Recreation Center.

Mr. Scott stated he has worked closely with Maryann and hopes the Mayor-elect gives her an interview, she will be missed by many. Mr. Scott hopes that Mr. Abdulla was watching this meeting.

**Council addressing audience participation: cont.**

Mr. Mencini understands Mr. Mattern's anger about speeding and commented it can be very frustrating; the city police do a good job, it's not an easy job. I think Council does a good job and Mr. Mattern commented that Council is overpaid; in some ways there is only so much that Council can do and stated I wouldn't want that happening on my street. Mr. Mencini continued with Recreation Director, Maryann Fields, her first day was a Saturday with basketball going on and always having a smile on her face. Maryann has made many friends, both young and old, that is not easy to do in a four-year span. A lot of people are saying this is how politics work and have seen the ins-and-outs of it and it isn't pretty. Maryann tried to stay away from the politics as much as she could to please all of us and make Brook Park a better place and did that very well. I don't know what the Mayor-elect Gammella is going to do but if Maryann leaves she will be someone else's gift. Mr. Mencini continued with the Veterans and addictions we should be supporting them in their battle.

Mrs. Powers stated that she has spoken to Mr. Mattern on many times and has written memos to the Mayor about his complaints on his street; and understands his anger and frustration. Mrs. Powers appreciates all the support for Maryann Fields this evening and it seems to be an assumption that the Mayor-elect is letting her go, that is not a fair assumption.

Mr. Astorino interjected it is my understanding that a letter was provided to Mrs. Fields that she will not be carried over into the new year, it's not an assumption the people are making.

Mrs. Powers commented not being aware of the letter and was under the impression that people would be looked at for their record.

-----

There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini to adjourn.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Salvatore, Mencini, McDonnell, Powers, Troyer, Burgio, Scott

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

Council President Astorino declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 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.

Rec'd 12/5/17 via email  
Read into record

Theresa Kramer  
21460 Sheldon Rd., C25  
Brook Park, Ohio 44142  
216-299-0956

December 5, 2017

VIA EMAIL: [mblazak@cityofbrookpark.com](mailto:mblazak@cityofbrookpark.com)  
AND REGULAR U.S. MAIL

Brook Park City Council  
Attn: Michelle Blazak, Clerk of Council  
City of Brook Park  
6161 Engle Rd.  
Brook Park, OH 44142

Re: *Council Meeting December 5, 2017*

Dear Ms. Blazak:

It is my understanding that the Brook Park City Council ("Council") will hold a regularly scheduled meeting this evening at 7:00 PM. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this meeting but would like to provide comments on one of the agenda items related to replacement of Mary Ann Fields, Recreation Director. As such, this letter will set forth my comments and concerns. It is my intention that this letter either be read into the records at the Council meeting or incorporated into the records by reference.

While I understand that each mayor-elect may appoint a recreation director for the City, I ask that in this situation, Council and the incoming Mayor-Elect, Mike Gamella, reconsider the standard practice of automatically replacing the recreation director with his own appointee. Just because a practice has been status quo, doesn't mean that we should accept that practice simply because that is the way things have always been. It is important that policies and procedures change and adjust with the best interests of the community and reflect current needs.

The current Recreation Director, Mary Ann Fields, has excelled in her position since appointment by Mayor Thomas Coyne. It is grossly unfair that Mary Ann should lose her position over mere political fallout. To do so, would not serve the best interests of our community. Mary Ann has done many great things for our most vulnerable populations, the children and the elderly. She has organized events to not only bring the community together but also events that provide goodwill and charity among those most in need. To terminate Mary Ann without cause would be doing a great disservice to those that she serves.

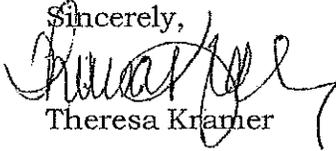
I think it is important to recognize that this position is obviously not just a job for Mary Ann. It is very easy to see that she truly has a passion for what she does. She puts her heart and soul into the work she does in our City. Mary Ann works very hard to make our City a great place to be by implementing creative programs that serve the

needs of our residents. I have witnessed firsthand the commitment Mary Ann makes to the City of Brook Park and I believe it is above and beyond her job description. By doing so, she makes a difference in the lives of many people each day, even if it is in just a small way. This is probably an example we could all learn from.

Moreover, Mary Ann has developed a great bond with many of the children in our community. At a time when our young people, especially our teenagers, are faced with many challenges growing up, it is imperative to have a strong community recreation center to help keep them grounded and provide activities and services that foster and encourage citizenship. After all, these children are the ones that we will depend on to give back to our community in the future and keep it great. Mary Ann sets a grand example to these children about what community service and social responsibility encompasses.

For the reasons set forth above, and so many more, I humbly ask that City Council and the Mayor Elect consider retaining Mary Ann Fields. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Kramer", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Theresa Kramer