

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT THE CAUCUS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:00 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

**SCOTT, BURGIO, ORCUTT, STEMM, MENCINI, POINDEXTER**

Also in attendance were Building Commissioner Hurst, Law Director Horvath, Recreation Director Elliott, Mayor Gammella and Assistant Finance Director Healy (7:10 p.m.).

Mr. Vecchio stated Councilman Salvatore called ill this evening.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. MAYOR GAMMELLA'S APPOINTMENT TO SERVICE DIRECTOR - RON JORDAN  
**Note: (Moved by motion from the January 2nd Organizational meeting).**

Mayor Gammella stated Council has had two weeks to look at the resumes and many of you have met with me to talk.

**Motion** by Mr. Poindexter to approve Ron Jordan as Service Director.

Mr. Vecchio stated motion dies for a lack of second.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Burgio, this was discussed.

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Mayor Gammella stated Council, you've two weeks to look at the resume; Mr. Jordan's resume is outstanding. Not only has he worked for the City of Brook Park, he has worked for the City of Cleveland as a supervisor and the City of Rocky River as a supervisor and currently with Euthenics. It's been two weeks without a service department and it's been rough on myself and the men at the service department. Were one snowstorm away from catastrophe possibly, I need a service director. The Charter states I appoint a service director and Council confirms that. I've asked you to appoint Mr. Jordan and I'll ask again for Mr. Jordan.  
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**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Burgio, Orcutt, Stemm, Mencini

**NAYS:** Poindexter. The motion carried with a vote of 5-1.

2. MAYOR GAMMELLA'S APPOINTMENT TO SAFETY DIRECTOR - SCOTT ADAMS  
**Note: (Moved by motion from the January 2nd Organizational meeting).**

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Gammella stated Council, you've had two weeks to look at the resume and Mr. Adams is a long time resident of the city, former Council President and former Councilman. Has a background in law enforcement and only a few credits away of obtaining his bachelor's degree, I ask that Council appoint Mr. Adams as Safety Director.

**Motion** by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Mencini, to appoint Mr. Adams as Safety Director.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Poindexter, Mencini

**NAYS:** Stemm, Orcutt, Burgio, Scott. The motion failed with a vote of 2-4.

Mayor Gammella commented gentlemen I believe you're in violation of the Charter and will deal with that at the appropriate time; I would like to thank the gentlemen for their support.

Mr. Vecchio opened the floor for discussion, one round and then it will be ended. We're not going to get into a session of bickering back and forth.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mayor Gammella, I don't believe this is a lack of due respect to anybody and I don't think that we didn't do our homework in the two weeks. I think what it is, with prior Council and newly-elected Council, saw some pretty tough times the past two years, it wasn't an easy time. The last term when I sat as Council President Pro-Tem from what I'm seeing is there could be a little bit more dialogue going back and forth. When you spoke to us we expressed our feelings on this and don't believe any of us are sold with the thought that the public is convincing us. We looked at the resumes and took the precautions that we had to take and don't want to see what we had not all of the past two years; I would say December 2016 to January, 2017 was a very rough time for the ones that were here then. We don't want to have that, again, for the next two years, we want to do things right and our due diligence and want to be informed. There are a few people that got appointments, I don't know their salary right now; don't know if they're making maximum or not. It was said they would go at the lowest scale and it was said that some would be part-time. I don't know but those are some of the things that we would like to know because we do want to move forward with you and have a great two years. Resumes were looked at and I vote for my Council colleagues but respect anyway they choose to vote because they do their work, as I do.

Mr. Poindexter stated I'm a new Councilmember and some people may look at that as a hindrance but where it helps me in this case. Is I don't know either Mr. Jordan or Mr. Adams, personally, and can only judge by their resumes; looking at

**Discussion: cont.**

the resumes they are more than qualified to fill the positions that they are appointed for. Unless Council has evidence that I need to see or hear to enlighten me of why they are not being appointed, I would like to see the documentation. I researched background information on them, criminal or something, and nothing came up unless something was found in that aspect and would also like to see that. There's been no dialogue with me as to why everyone is voting no and haven't had any contact with anybody of any evidence of why I should vote no. My opinion by looking at the resumes they should have been appointed two weeks ago, so if anyone has any reasons why I should be voting no, I'd like to hear it.

Mr. Scott stated I did vote no on both of these, being that on December 7th and the Mayor told me who is appointments were going to be. I started my due diligence on December 8th and requested the resumes be sent to me and there may have been a mix-up or whatever. I have contacted many people and have talked to many different people in different departments and also researched online. There are things that I'm not going to bring up but there are things that have caused the red flag to be honest with you. I went through two years of bickering and two Councilmembers that were convicted with both pleading guilty. We have a former Council President who is under investigation and the last two years have been rough. This is a new Council with new Councilmembers with think we have a new outlook to search and get all the information on everyone presented to Council. I don't know if there will be a presentation on a few other people but there's going to be some qualifications that I would like to see. I did look at everything, resumes and histories, and voted what I felt was best for the city and voted with a clear conscience and think I voted the way the Brook Park residents wanted to be seen. To Mr. Poindexter I do have items if you would like to see it and will show it to you. I met with the Mayor and told him how I felt and as I stated this city needs high standards and we have to pick the right people that are the perfect fit for these departments. I felt what I thought was right for the city, it's nothing personal, there is no personal vendetta, but I want to do the best for the city.

Mayor Gammella stated I agree with you, (Mr. Scott) I want high standards for this city and that's why I wanted these two gentlemen. You stated in the last two years that it was rough and quite frankly I would like to end that. I'd like this Council and the city to work together as a team and need the proper people in place to do that; I think both of these gentlemen are that. A few things that I think should be mentioned, when these gentlemen, if they are appointed, or whoever is appointed the salaries will start at the very low-end. I'm also thinking about maybe making some of my directors part-time and will be bringing legislation to Council for that in the near future. There is one thing that I would like to get out, I received a call today from a news reporter asking if Mr. Jordan was a convicted felon? People have told me and shown me what is on Facebook

**Discussion: cont.**

and things of that nature. I can assure you I would never bring a convicted felon to this Council to be appointed to a directorship. What happened in 1981 is a long, long story that goes back to this; Mr. Jordan never went to court. A judge and a prosecutor even before it went anywhere stated there is no crime here, Mr. Jordan you are free to go, and this man went through tough times because of that and is still going through it right now. I just want to make it clear there is nothing wrong with Mr. Jordan who has been a fine outstanding member of this community for years and I stand by his reputation. For those of you who did your due diligence and spoke to people about Mr. Jordan; I think the majority of the people said the same thing as the city engineer did. I just wanted to make that clear there is no one bringing a felon up here or anything of that nature, for the record.

- 3. A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 21-27, 2018 AS PUBLIC EDUCATION WEEK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella

Mr. Mencini asked Mayor Gammella due to the dates should this be moved to the Council meeting following.

Mayor Gammella responded yes and will accept co-sponsors.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to move to the Council agenda immediately following.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Poindexter, Stemm, Orcutt, Burgio, Scott  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

Mr. Vecchio asked for co-sponsors, Councilmembers present raised their hands.

Mr. Vecchio stated this will appear under M-3 as Resolution No. 1-2018.

- 4. A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY AS PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella

Mayor Gammella stated human trafficking is a huge problem not only in this country but throughout the world. What we're trying to do with this legislation is make people aware and if they see something that doesn't look right; call law enforcement to handle it. Mayor Gammella invited all Councilmembers to join in support of this because it is a very critical issue; something that is facing the world.

**Discussion: cont.**

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Scott, to place on the next Council agenda of February 6th.

Mr. Vecchio asked for co-sponsors, Mr. Poindexter invited everyone.

Councilmembers and Mayor Gammella would like to be co-sponsors.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Scott, Burgio, Orcutt, Stemm, Poindexter  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

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Mayor Gammella stated a service director is needed so what I would like to do is this. Council with their clerk gave her 30 days to see if it worked out and I was wondering if you could do the same consideration for the administration. By allowing me to appoint an interim service director who is a long-time employee, John Pensis. Mr. Pensis has high seniority and this would be just for the interim of 30 to 45 days as Council deems necessary and it's also important that Mr. Pensis stays in the union and only be an interim service director in title only. There will be someone there to help supervise and to sign-off on timesheets and other items.

Mr. Orcutt stated at this time right now, we have Bob Walden at the garage as a general foreman.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Orcutt continued by saying I don't know the gentleman you brought up and have no idea who he is. If there is some information that Council could get, I'm not against this, but would need a little bit of time to research.

Mayor Gammella asked if Council would be willing to put on the next Council agenda?

Mr. Orcutt responded I think that would be plenty of time for Council to take a look at that.

Mayor Gammella thanked Councilman Orcutt for his consideration.

Mr. Mencini stated coming from the service garage and do know John Pensis who is head of the mechanics' area and gets things done. Mr. Pensis grew up in Brook Park and highly recommend him but will allow my colleagues that time to get familiar with him and hold John Pensis in high standing.

Mr. Stemm asked for a biography on Mr. Pensis before next Tuesday?

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Mencini thanked Mayor Gammella for bringing this forward because this not only happens in the world, it happens throughout the country, happens and in our own neighborhoods and something to be aware of.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to place on the Council agenda immediately following.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Poindexter, Stemm, Orcutt, Burgio, Scott  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

Mr. Vecchio this will appear as Resolution No. 2-2018 as M-4. Mr. Vecchio asked for co-sponsors, Councilmembers present raised their hands.

5. AN ORDINANCE RETAINING AND EMPLOYING THE LAW FIRM OF MANSOURGAVIN, LPA TO ACT AS CO-COUNSEL WITH THE LAW DIRECTOR IN LABOR RELATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella

Mayor Gammella stated this is the firm we would like to hire to assist in negotiating of union agreements. They are a very good firm and I believe under former Mayor Elliott they were the firm used at that time.

Mr. Scott asked Law Director Horvath if she knows anything about this law firm?

Ms. Horvath responded I've dealt with this particular firm, not necessarily in the labor-law relations but in other areas of the law. I've had conversations with people concerning the Attorney, Jim Budzik, who would be doing the primary work; all responses received have been favorably and positive. I also spoke with him at one time and information has been forwarded to Council. It is my understanding that Attorney, Budzik worked with another Attorney, Gary Johnson who was labor counsel for the City of Brook Park under former Mayor Elliott. I have no reason why he wouldn't be qualified for this particular position and know that Mr. Budzik has been at this for a while and in my conversation with him he informed me this is the area of law and enjoys practicing.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Scott, to place on the next Council agenda.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Scott, Burgio, Orcutt, Stemm, Poindexter  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

Mr. Poindexter introduced a Resolution honoring the Polaris Chef Training Program for being named to the Sullivan's Elite 50 list for 2018. This is the fourth year of receiving this honor and would like to have them recognized.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Gammella concurred, that's only fair and can be discussed at the next Caucus meeting.

**Motion** by Mr. Burgio, supported by Mr. Mencini, to place John Pensis on the next Caucus agenda.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Burgio, Mencini, Poindexter, Stemm, Orcutt, Scott

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

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Burgio, Mencini, Poindexter, Stemm, Orcutt, Scott

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

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Michelle Blazak  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED February 6, 2018

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

