

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 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, SALVATORE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. Regular Caucus meeting held on January 9, 2018.

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION:**

1. DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL - C TRFO 4258665 FOR A C1, C2 AND D6 TO JAY BAJRANGBALI, LLC DBA BROOKPARK SMOKES & BEVERAGE, 5707 SMITH ROAD, BROOK PARK, OH 44142 FROM SHRI VIRATMA, LLC, DBA BROOKPARK SMOKES & BEVERAGE, 5707 SMITH ROAD, BROOK PARK, OH 44142. **POSTMARK DATE 2/5/18**

Mr. Salvatore stated to Law Director Horvath it appears they're keeping the same name; this is a family transfer.

Ms. Horvath responded there was a partnership and one of the partners wanted out and Mr. Viratma, LLC would still be the owner. Also, in speaking with Police Chief Foster he told me that there have been no problems with this establishment.

Mr. Salvatore commented the building remains the same it is just the license being transferred.

Mrs. Horvath concurred and stated information has been distributed to Council regarding this matter.

Mr. Orcutt stated I spoke with the manager and this is a very good establishment and basically the transfer is from one corporation to another.

**Discussion: cont.**

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott, that item number one was discussed.

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

- 2. A RESOLUTION GRANTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING AT 6091 SMITH ROAD, LOCATED IN THE UI-AS ZONE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **(Approved at the Planning Commission September 11, 2017) based on the revised TOPO submitted by the applicant 12/6/17 and the Engineer's comments dated 12/12/17. In attendance: Ericka Bogdan, 4450 Sir Richard Avenue, North Royalton (Note: Resolution No. 24-2017 adopted on October 3, 2017 included in packet for reference purposes)**

Erica Bogdan  
4450 Sir Richard Avenue  
North Royalton, OH

Floyd Bogdan

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Bogdan if there are any changes since appearing before Council?

Mr. Bogdan responded no, with what they wanted to do the city engineer said it was too much concrete so there will only be one driveway.

Mr. Mencini asked if this request is approved when would this start?

Mr. Bogdan responded as soon as the permit is granted.

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

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

- 3. A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO MAINTAIN A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING AT 5774 SMITH ROAD, LOCATED IN THE US-A ZONE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Mencini stated in speaking with this resident on numerous occasions, this resident has done everything needed with the Planning Commission and

**Discussion: cont.**

Building Department to make this a two-unit. It is one of the city's historical homes and again, the resident has completed all the necessary specifications.

Mr. Burgio stated at the Planning Commission meeting, the city's building commissioner answered any questions and stated the resident complied with the changes.

Mrs. Horvath indicated that after review that there is a little bit of a discrepancy in the way the legislation is written with language from the Planning Commission not being included in the drafted legislation. Stating 'which will revert back to a single-family use once the original family members (tenants) vacate the premises' that should be included in Section 1 at the end of the paragraph.

Mr. Orcutt stated I've been following this and have spoken with the homeowner twice and, unfortunately, the resident has done everything right and this was overlooked due to the changes in the Planning Commission. The resident needs to meet the deadline and has done everything he possibly could prior to; the city had an oversight and didn't get him on the Planning Commission agenda as needed. This conditional use permit is for family members, for the grandparents to live for care necessities. When the grandparents move out the home will revert back to a single-family dwelling.

Mr. Scott asked Law Director Horvath if a letter 'e' should be included on the permit?

Mrs. Horvath responded that would be one way to amend or insert the verbiage in Section 1.

Mr. Scott clarified the wording should be included before Council proceeds?

Mrs. Horvath concurred, and stated that probably was the Planning Commission's intent and should be included.

Mr. Salvatore clarified to Law Director Horvath that would satisfy all the needs and wants to be able to have this done.

Mrs. Horvath concurred.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini, to amend Section 1 by inserting language 'which will revert back to a single-family use once the original family members vacate the premises'.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Orcutt what is preventing them from moving their grandparents into the single-family dwelling; without going through the two-family dwelling process?

Mr. Orcutt responded that question has been brought up and it has to do with some of the finances for the family and what they bring in. My understanding is the family will be moving from out-of-state and to keep some of the monies they need to have a separate address.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini to amend Section 1.

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

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

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

Council President Vecchio stated this will appear under M-1 as Resolution No. 4-2018.

**4. (a) APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCIL CLERK AND ANY SUCH EMPLOYEES AS COUNCIL MAY DEEM NECESSARY**

Mr. Orcutt asked Council President Vecchio what the timeline on is for the ad in the paper for the resumes.

Mr. Vecchio responded that would be January 31st, and runs on Sunday in the paper and online.

Mr. Orcutt stated this is something that should be kept open to allow people until the end of the month to get resumes in; Council already extended the Council Clerk's pay and time-in until the end of the month. So if resumes are going to be taken in I think it would be responsible for Council to extend Ms. Blazak to a later date, not by a month, we shouldn't do that to her. I believe it should be extended to a few months; possibly until the end of April to allow Council to sort through the resumes and give the applicants that did apply a fair chance; have an Executive Session to sort through the resumes received.

**Discussion: cont.**

**Motion** by Mr. Orcutt, supported by Mr. Burgio, to extend the Council Clerk to the end of April.

Mr. Mencini stated in the past four years being on Council the clerk has done a super job and like some Councilmembers has been through a lot the last few years. I am good with a six-month extension but will leave it to my colleagues and am fine with the three-month extension.

Mr. Salvatore stated I agree with Councilman Orcutt with the three months because it puts Council's feet to the fire and makes Council move on this. This way we can't just sit back and wait six months and if nothing happens then there is another issue. I think the clerk has the opportunity to find out her future and Council has an obligation because of the ad going into the paper; to at least screen the applicants who took the time to put their resumes forward. I don't want to wait around an extra couple of months let's get this moving and come to a conclusion and agree with the dates Mr. Orcutt provided and think Council should be able to conclude it by then.

Mr. Mencini continued I will definitely go with the majority but on that the new Council and new Administration will have a lot on their plate with other things arising.

Mr. Orcutt stated to Councilman Mencini, you made some great points on this and did put some thought into this, it is big. I have to say this too and want this to be a formal thank you that Michelle has nothing but a professional job this whole time. It's made my transition into this position very easy with everything the clerk has done. The reason I came up with the extension is only because there is a timeline on those resumes and Council must think about the candidates submitting their applications; I have a folder of approximately 15 resumes. So three or four months is good and I like how Councilman Salvatore said it puts Council's feet to the fire and we're getting moving. I think people are sensing that about this Council; there's a new standard in town and think six months would be a little too long but also think extending it possibly three more months gives Council a little time to sort through the resumes submitted and move forward.

Mr. Vecchio interjected the last Council meeting for April would be the 17th; I believe we would have to go to May 1st.

Mr. Salvatore commented the April 30th date works because that would be the deadline date and Council must get this done before that date and have answers before the middle of April. If you are going to consider someone else and maybe we're not, maybe we have the best candidate. Because the person, if chosen,

**Discussion: cont.**

would have to give a two-week's notice and do their professional courtesy to the company they may be working for, my suggestion is to keep the same date Mr. Orcutt suggested forcing Council to move a little quicker.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Orcutt, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to extend the Council Clerk until the end of April.

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

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

4. (b) APPOINTMENTS OF SUCH EMPLOYEES AS COUNCIL MAY DEEM NECESSARY.

Mr. Salvatore asked if the Assistant Clerk of Council is going to be discussed?

Mr. Orcutt responded yes, I received in my inbox a letter addressed to Mr. Vecchio from the part-time assistant clerk. My question is whatever came of this I heard she was out on leave?

Mr. Vecchio stated past discussions have been that she was out on leave and we've been chasing a paper trail on that in trying to see if there's any paperwork handed in; to date nothing has been found. I've been on the phone the past few days speaking with the law director and human resources commissioner trying to get a full synopsis of this. It appears that medical leave was taken at the end of November and without a paper trail there is no date.

Mr. Orcutt asked what paper trail are we looking for? A proper notice of her leave?

Mr. Vecchio responded yes, it would be required that notice be sent to the human resources department of a person being out on leave; currently there isn't anything.

Mr. Orcutt continued the reason I brought that up is item number four on the agenda says all employees that Council may deem necessary. I definitely don't want to overlook her especially since our assistant was on medical leave and is now in limbo. These motions I've been making this month is for protecting what is going on for the city and do the right thing for the city. I read the letter and have a lot of questions about that matter. What you're saying is there is no paperwork saying she was on medical leave.

Mr. Vecchio commented nothing that has been found through the human resources department.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Orcutt continued it's been my understanding since day one, since coming in for orientation with our Council clerk, had a great meeting, when that came up, from my understanding, she was on medical leave and now is in limbo. What should we be doing at this time?

Mr. Vecchio asked Law Director Horvath for an opinion on where this should be headed.

Mrs. Horvath stated at this time we're looking for that trail and trying to trace down some paperwork and facts. At this time, I think probably the best thing would be for Council to determine not to make that appointment either interim or permanent with regards to the assistant clerk.

Mr. Salvatore concurred with the law director and stated when I received the letter from the assistant clerk. There seems to be a lot of confusion if there was any paperwork filed for a medical leave. There was another incident very similar to this one and what procedure that was followed on that seems to be different than the policy that may be in the handbook. To be fair and go ahead and let the law director proceed to come up with the correct answers before moving forward on filling that position.

Mr. Mencini concurred and stated Council needs answers on this and the Assistant Clerk of Council needs a resolution to know where she stands. In order to get there as stated at the first Council meeting, and again today, that we want to do things right and proper, no rush, but get some answers.

Mr. Orcutt clarified what paperwork that we are looking for is it from the department head to human resources stating that she was on medical leave. The reason I'm asking these questions is I need clarification from an employee who wrote a letter. I want to know what type of paperwork are we looking for, that is missing?

Mr. Vecchio responded yes, it would be from the department head to human resources as Council is a little different and not considered a "department". Council Rule No. 27 states that the Council President is the Office Administrator and the office administrator is responsible for those papers and for that action. That's the action we're researching and trying to see where it's at, currently it is leading to a dead-end.

Mr. Orcutt continued by stating I think we need to do things right and glad that the law director gave Council an opinion on this but we have to consider doing this quickly because I read that letter and someone is currently in limbo. The way I

**Discussion: cont.**

read the policy handbook and Rules of Council it is in black and white and very simple that the department head is supposed to write a letter. We're looking for a letter from the department head and must do this as soon as possible to take care of the Assistant Council Clerk. I think we've had enough time on this and she has been on leave since the end of November and it's now going into the end of January and still in limbo. I know you don't have anything to do with that but there needs to be some serious urgency on this.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott, to not fulfill the position of Assistant Clerk of Council.

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

5. INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR - JOHN PENSIS (Mayor Gammella)

Mayor Gammella stated, unfortunately, Mr. Pensis has decided to pull his interim status and thanked everyone for the consideration but at this time has decided he no longer wants the position. Currently, I am looking at resumes and will forward to Council for the February 6th Caucus prior to agenda. Earlier, the clerk distributed the resume of Brian Blayney for safety director. I will be withdrawing Mr. Adams' name and would appreciate Council's consideration of Mr. Blayney at the February 6th Caucus prior to meeting, to move on with city business.

Mr. Mencini expressed disappointment but understands Mr. Pensis' situation and commented he was a quality pick.

Mr. Scott asked if there are any other appointments to be announced?

Mayor Gammella responded not at this time.

Mr. Scott continued at the January 16th meeting you made a statement that you were going to announce human resources and economic development directors (commissioners). Has a decision been made as to the human resources person?

Mayor Gammella stated I thought I would have a service director and safety director by now but I don't; I am trying to be patient and want to work with this Council. Debbie Alaimo is the Human Resources Coordinator (Commissioner) and the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) that situation depends on what happens with the safety director and service director. If you would like to ask me a direct question, I would be happy to answer it.

Mr. Scott responded no, just asking if Debi Alaimo is human resources commissioner?

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Scott asked what the salary is?

Mayor Gammella responded the very minimum, I try to start all my directors and commissioners at the very minimum. The only exception to that rule is Recreation Director Elliott due to his outstanding resume and the need to pay the job for the recreation center, I think Council would agree. I need a person over there and was glad when Mr. Elliott decided and Council confirmed because that recreation center project is enormous. What I will be doing is bringing in a contractor, in a week or so, to bring Council up to speed as to what is going on. You were at the last meeting that was very fruitful and I want Council to see what is going on so that we are all on the same page with the recreation center. I think everyone knows my position on the pool, I would like to reopen the pool, we have a company looking into that and again whatever decision is made will be made collectively.

Mr. Scott continued on the city-wide extension list, the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) is listed as Jim Astorino, is that true?

Mayor Gammella responded no.

Mr. Scott stated Mr. Astorino has been in the office since January 1st what is he doing?

Mayor Gammella responded I was considering making him Economic Development Director (Commissioner) and wanted to make the position part-time. After looking at everything, there is a lot entailed in the economic development position and I don't think that being a part-time position would do the city justice. So, at this point, Mr. Astorino is over there working and we'll see where that goes.

Mr. Scott stated we have no position; my point is he on payroll?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, he was doing the work of the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) but in talking with him he will not be the Economic Development Director (Commissioner).

Mr. Scott asked Finance Director Cingle if paperwork has been received from Mr. Astorino to date?

Mr. Cingle responded no.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Scott continued if there is no paperwork what is Mr. Astorino being paid, since there is nothing on the books?

Mayor Gammella responded again, I wanted to make it a part-time position with a part-time salary of \$49,000 but I would need Council's approval for that. Again, after looking at the Economic Development Commissioner's job, initially, my intention was to make it part-time that can't be done, it has to be a full-time position.

Mr. Scott stated Mr. Astorino is considered a volunteer?

Mayor Gammella responded I wouldn't consider him a volunteer but let's put it this way he is not going to be Economic Development Director (Commissioner).

Mr. Scott continued I'm not trying to be argumentative, what is he doing?

Mayor Gammella stated he was the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) initially I brought him in to do that part-time. Due to circumstances he is not going to be the Economic Development, due to my decision of being full-time.

Mr. Scott reiterated what is he doing there right now?

Mayor Gammella clarified again, I will say it once more. I was initially going to use him as the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) on a part-time basis. I can't use him as the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) on a part-time basis because I've determined it's a full-time job. Council, one quick comment, I've been very patient with you and hope you'll be patient with me; I do want to work with you.

Mr. Scott stated we met and I told you I wanted things to move forward. Mr. Scott asked Law Director Horvath if there are any legal ramifications that could happen with the situation going on right now. Due to the fact that this person has been working since January 1st without any paperwork being submitted to the Finance Director?

Mrs. Horvath responded there are some issues, one of the things that I did was reach out to the city's insurance carrier to determine if there would be any protection for any claims. It was indicated to me that volunteers acting within the scope of their authorized duties are considered insured under the policy for both general liability and public officials' liability. It appears if Mr. Astorino is going to remain pending until another person being appointed to that position then it may be that we would have to look at some Workers' Compensation issues, some

**Discussion: cont.**

confidentiality issues and perhaps some other items. I don't know what Mayor Gammella's intentions are at this point, but there is a possibility that there could be legal issues. One of the issues will not be whether or not Mr. Astorino is insured under the city's policy that I have determined there would be coverage for that.

Mr. Vecchio asked for clarification from a statement that Law Director Horvath said there possibly could be an insurance issue with volunteers working under their job description; if they're working under a job description there wouldn't be an issue.

Mrs. Horvath responded Mr. Astorino would be covered, there would be coverage if he were a volunteer acting within the scope of his authorized duties; we would probably need to determine what those authorized duties would be. Depending on the situation we would need to make sure that there is some element of confidentiality and depending on where things finally end up with this employee they are covered under Workmen's Compensation. If they are not an employee and they are a volunteer that might be a problem. Mr. Astorino's status would have to be determined with some degree of accuracy and then see what problems may flow from that status; then determine how to resolve those problems.

Mr. Vecchio commented it sounds to me that a description of duties would have to be laid-out to say coverage would be there or not in that case.

Mrs. Horvath concurred.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mayor Gammella, you want to appoint Mr. Astorino as your Director (Commissioner) of Economic Development. That was going to originally be converted to a part-time position and is now determined with the importance of that position it should be full-time. Unless I misunderstood it was stated that Mr. Astorino is on the payroll and getting paid, correct?

Mayor Gammella responded that would be correct, again, I intended to make that a part-time position and that will not work out after looking at the duties entailed, a full-time person is needed and one will be appointed.

Mr. Salvatore asked is it safe to assume that Mr. Astorino is the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) until someone else is picked?

Mayor Gammella responded yes.

Mr. Salvatore clarified Mr. Astorino is the city's Economic Development Director (Commissioner) temporarily?

**Discussion: cont.**

Mayor Gammella responded let me say this, there was an understanding on a part-time position, that position is no longer there, it is full-time; so someone else will be named to that position.

Mr. Scott asked Mayor Gammella if Mr. Astorino has access to city files and so forth?

Mayor Gammella responded in the Economic Development office, yes.

Mr. Scott continued has Mr. Astorino been appointed to any type of department head...I have an issue. Since there is no paperwork through Finance Director Cingle as to how to pay. I have a bad taste in my mouth that Mr. Astorino is basically a resident holding an office in City Hall. I hope I'm not right with that but I have a bad feeling and don't know if you agree with me or disagree. My feeling is since he is not having paperwork submitted and don't think he's been paid but has full rein to economic development records and files. I would consider Mr. Astorino a resident since he has not been appointed or paid anything.

Mayor Gammella responded Mr. Astorino was the part-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner) and that position is no longer there; so that position will be filled on a full-time basis with someone else very shortly.

Mr. Orcutt stated I'm a bit confused and think my colleague is asking very good questions with the questions that were asked. Mr. Astorino is being paid but doesn't have a title and Finance Director Cingle mentioned that Mr. Astorino is not on the books and Law Director Horvath mentioned that could be a liability; that is what I heard in the last five minutes. Is it a liability? Are we paying Mr. Astorino or not? Something is not adding up here and Mayor, I'm not trying to put you on the spot, I'm taking in the information and just asking the questions.

Mayor Gammella responded I'll say it again Councilman, initially I was going to make the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) a part-time job and had intended to fill with Mr. Astorino. However, I've decided a full-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner) is needed and it will not be Mr. Astorino. For the past 23 days Mr. Astorino has been acting as the Economic Development Director (Commissioner). The reason the paperwork isn't in, is the ordinance claims it's full-time position. So to make that change I'd have to bring it forward to Council to make the position a part-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner). I think with the feelings of the gentleman that would never happen, so I have to go a different way. Again, I'm asking Council to be patient with me like I am with this Council; let me work this thing through. I've had discussions with Law Director Horvath on this and it will be okay.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Orcutt commented that he thinks economic development is a full-time position that is how the city brings in revenue. Mr. Orcutt reiterated does the city have that liability with Mr. Astorino being in the municipal building? The law director spoke of having conversations and brought up that there may be a liability for insurance and workmen's compensation.

Mr. Stemm stated to Law Director Horvath volunteers for the city don't have permission to look at city files and there are access controls for volunteering at the Recreation Center or City Hall; they don't have access everywhere, correct?

Mrs. Horvath responded essentially that is correct, there are certain policies in the policy manual that talk about records and different things. If you're an employee, you have to follow those policies, that gives the city some protection and outline for employees on how to act and what to do in certain situations. If you're a volunteer, then you may not have signed and agreed to bond by the terms of that policy manual, that's a problem. Certainly, it's a problem with regard to looking at documents that have some element of confidentiality to them. So that would be a concern and that would have to be something that would be worked out under the situation the city has at hand. By the same token, if you may not be covered under Worker's Compensation and there may be other issues involved. Certainly, the city has many volunteers i.e. coach for a basketball team. As long as the person is acting in the scope of the authorized duties of coaching that team. If something happened from a general liability or a public officials' liability standpoint you would have coverage under the city's insurance policy. These other issues need to be determined and resolved and that is something that I and Mr. Cingle will work on but depending on where this is going all of these issues will have to be addressed.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mayor Gammella has Mr. Astorino received any pay to this point?

Mayor Gammella responded no but will be entitled to pay. Mr. Astorino has been on the job as Assistant Director (Commissioner) for Economic Development. So, yes, Mr. Astorino will be entitled to some pay coming up but, again, will not be the full-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner).

Mr. Poindexter asked Law Director Horvath are there any paid volunteers with the city? Does paying them or entitling Mr. Astorino's pay make him an employee instead of a volunteer?

Mrs. Horvath responded I'm unaware of any paid volunteers, that may perhaps be a question for Finance Director Cingle. It seems to me that either you're hired as an employee, fill out the employment package and provide necessary information.

**Discussion: cont.**

That information is processed and goes over to the Finance Department and at that point the employee is on the books. Conversely, if you're a volunteer I think depending on the type of volunteering they also have procedures for that. These are two different things and I don't imagine that if you're a volunteer would be paid for anything.

Mr. Cingle commented to Mr. Poindexter if a person is a volunteer there is no pay.

Mr. Poindexter continued if it is determined that Mr. Astorino is an employee then there is no issue with him having access to files and so forth.

Mrs. Horvath responded if Mr. Astorino was an employee and filling the position as full-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner) then the proper paperwork would be processed. Mr. Astorino would have acknowledged that he had an opportunity to read the policy manual and would be bound by all the terms that employees are bound by; the city would not have an issue with Workmen's Compensation or some of the other issues. In all likelihood as an employee there would not be a confidentiality issue that would exist with regards to some of the documents seen. Conversely, if he were not an employee if he did not fill out those papers in the ordinary course, then there may be some issues.

Mr. Mencini asked Mayor Gammella if Mr. Astorino will be there tomorrow?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, he will be there.

Mr. Mencini commented I believe the Community Development Director (Commissioner) should be a very high-powered position in our city being the situation that the city is in currently. We need business here, we need grants and need someone with a lot of energy to find those grants. Somebody will probably have to put in a lot more work than maybe even full-time. There are probably one maybe two positions out there that could possibly be part-time, personally I think safety possibly could be one. Mayor, you've made good choices with Mr. D'Amico, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Pensis who chose not to take the position. I think it must be someone with that caliber to take that position, it is a big position for our city.

Mr. Burgio agreed with Mayor Gammella that economic development needs to be a full-time position, there is plenty to do. I think filling that position will take a while and be stagnating for the city; the city needs a full-time Economic Development Director (Commissioner). I think we need to bring this matter to a close so that we can move forward and expressed gladness that the law director is looking into this matter so there are no legal ramifications for the city.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mayor Gammella you stated during this time Mr. Astorino has been in the position of Economic Development Director (Commissioner). Does that mean for this period Mr. Astorino will be paid a salary based upon the salaried amount for the Economic Development Director (Commissioner) either in the low to high or some other determination?

Mayor Gammella responded Mr. Astorino will be paid \$49,000 based on that, in other words it will be off the \$49,000 for the two or three weeks.

Mr. Vecchio clarified pro-rated on the \$49,000.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Salvatore stated concern with paying off of the \$49,000 salary base doesn't appear in the ordinance. I think Mr. Astorino could be paid from the bottom of the low point but I don't think you can go below the low point.

Mayor Gammella stated to Mr. Salvatore, your point is well taken and I will be looking into that.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott, that item number five was discussed.

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

6. PROPOSED CITYWIDE PROJECTS (Councilman Salvatore)

Mr. Salvatore stated this is on the agenda to get an early start about projects that we could consider and make a few suggestions of things that may be done in-house. Over the year's projects have been talked about that never got off the ground and by working with this Council in the few short weeks. I think this Council is very aggressive and wants to improve the community. The reason why I'm suggesting these projects is because we talk about property values and everyone says Brook Park is on the rise and it is. But, the key is not only having it on the rise but to maintain it; to maintain the property values and keep them there. One of the ways to do that is when people drive through the town or have relatives and/or friends visit and see positive things happening in the community, they may want to look at houses. I think this is a Council and Administration that not only talks about it but wants to make Brook Park what it once was and can be again. One project is the intersection of Snow Road and 1-71 which is the first and last thing seen coming into Brook Park from the highway. There is no reason why there can't be an outstanding, attractive intersection with red brick, planters, growing greenery and proper lighting. I personally don't think

**Discussion: cont.**

that will break the bank but certainly think will create a tremendous image for people traveling in and out of Brook Park. I always wanted to put the word in brick on the side of I-71 (reading) Brook Park or Brook Park, Ohio; however, we want to do it and had this thought way before the City of Strongsville did theirs by Route 82. It doesn't have to be that elaborate but should be something that looks classy, sharp and shows off the name of Brook Park. Another thing talked about and can be done in-house is with the Resolution honoring John Glenn that is currently in committee. Instead of just reading and giving a piece of paper to someone, we should go one step farther. Build a walkway with the length undetermined at this time because not sure of how many plaques and/or headstones would be included. Mr. Glenn would be a starting point for the brick walkway and the plaque and give a name to the parkway such as the Space Way, since Mr. Glenn was an astronaut. These are simple projects that we could get some pricing to start making Brook Park beautiful. One of my conversations with Mr. Orcutt, was with the railroad crossing by Hummel Road towards the Ford Plant, that should be redone. I'm hoping we can sit down and get some pricing on these four or five suggestions and think they are all doable.

Mr. Burgio stated to Mr. Salvatore, some of those ideas are really good and I know that the Beautification and Pride Committee thinks along those lines and would be happy to get behind and support them. This is something that all of Council and the Mayor can work together on to make Brook Park proud of who we are. Some of these things are going to be beneficial and positive for the community. I'm sure you have more ideas and am interested to hear some of the details of what can be done. I think these could be some fun projects for the city and good for the community and as you mentioned people wanting to move into Brook Park and be proud of our city.

Mr. Salvatore commented I do have some of the details and would be glad to share them.

Mr. Poindexter agreed with sprucing up the areas off the (highway) exits to our city are a great idea and would like to go a step further to reach out to recognizable businesses by planting their flag in the City of Brook Park. Maybe that would bring people from other cities to Brook Park and see what our city has to offer; these ideas could be the start for something like that.

Mr. Orcutt stated to Mr. Salvatore, you presented that very well and think it's a wonderful idea and we did have a lot of conversations about this. To Mayor Gammella I think this is just going to be the greatest marketing tool this city can use right now. I think people out there, the residents, voted for a new standard in Brook Park and want a change; they want to see something new and brighter. I think this is something that Council and Administration can work on together to

**Discussion: cont.**

give back to the people and use as a marketing tool for the future, to bring in that business. Mr. Orcutt thanked Mr. Salvatore for a great presentation and looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Mencini stated Mr. Poindexter brought up a good point with businesses in my time with the city and on Council I don't think we have had a good relationship with city businesses, some people may be disappointed to hear that. Sharon Zimmer from the Brook Park Chamber of Commerce provides information of things happening but it doesn't seem that the collaboration is there with them, such as in other cities. Mr. Burgio is right with the Beautification and Pride there are people that want to help and do things. Maybe a good example is when coming out of the airport to a non-pleasing sight. Mr. Viol, who passed away, would come to the microphone and say one of the first things people see is the Ford Plant and everything else that is not pretty. Other cities have beautiful displays and a lot of that is businesses, volunteers, labor unions and residents; it's not just Council and the Mayor sometimes it is community involvement. A lot of areas around the municipal campus could be more sightly and think people would agree with that.

This has been discussed in the past but never gets done and I think we need to move on this and not just talk about; there are a lot of people in this community that would like to work on projects like this.

Mr. Stemm agreed with Mr. Salvatore that curb appeal is very good for our city. The ball diamonds were refurbished the last few years and I think they are the best in the county and I play softball all over; I think we need to continue this and move forward.

Mr. Vecchio commented I think it's a great idea proposed by Mr. Salvatore and I have said this statement before we have to honor the past but we have to work to the future and there's no better way then what I'm seeing proposed this evening. I think this sets the tone for the city's future and this Council and Administration could be viewed as trendsetters.

**Motion** by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Mencini, that item number six was discussed.

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

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

**ROLL CALL: AVES:** Burgio, Mencini, Poindexter, Salvatore, Stemm, Orcutt, Scott

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

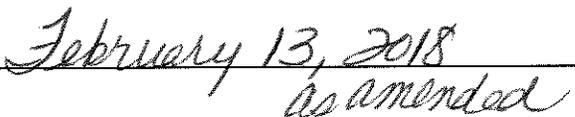
Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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.