

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019**

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

**SCOTT, ORCUTT, STEMM, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE**

Also in attendance were Law Director Horvath, Mayor Gammella, Service Director Gardner, Assistant Director of Finance Healy and Engineer Piatak.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter gave an oral report which is attached to these minutes.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported Finance Committee does not have anything on the agenda. The Board of Control met earlier and approved 53 items with three largest being; Motorola Upgrade of city's radio communication system -\$140,000, third year of the Police-Fire vehicle lease - \$221,000 and Specialized Construction Corp. 2018 Crack & Joint Sealing project - \$147,000.

Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini stated no report this evening.

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore stated no report this evening.

Planning Committee - Co-Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott stated the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to no applications being received.

Safety Committee - Chairman Stemm

Mr. Stemm stated the Safety Committee has nothing on the agenda and no report.

Service Committee - Chairman, Orcutt

Mr. Orcutt stated the Service Committee has nothing on the agenda but one reminder that January 14<sup>th</sup> is Bulk Pickup Day, please contact the service garage before 12:00 noon on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, to get on the list.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott stated the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to no applications being received.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Southwest General Health Center - Trustee, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported Southwest had a fantastic year in 2018 with employee engagement increased, first hospital in Northeast Ohio to receive the Employer of Choice award, employee turnover continues to decrease, recognized as Great Place to Work by Plain Dealer, Daisy award given to nurses for skillful and compassionate care. A new development program has been introduced to further skills of the leadership team, charity of excellence continues to move forward with Nurses Center with partnership with the Corporate College and Cuyahoga Community College. Efforts continue this year to put the patients as the center of everything the hospital does and all targets have been received across the entire organization. For the second year LifeWorks is recognized by the club industry as one of the top 100 clubs. The hospital was recognized with a five-star overhaul quality rating for the centers of Medicare-Medicaid and several other external organizations recognizing the center. Budget was exceeded in operating margin, patient very good for both in-patient and out-patient and reinvested over \$20 million-dollars for capital, new equipment, infrastructure and new services. The hospital exceeded its performance and improvement target with more than \$5 million-dollars in annual savings, new hires, physical therapy was integrated into Southwest General, growth in outpatient services and the opening of a new service and Southwest continued to support local schools with sponsorships and the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary investment for the Brunswick Medical Center and Emergency Room. Mr. Salvatore thanked the residents for the approval of the recent tax levy supporting Southwest and keeping Brook Park involved.

Berea Board of Education Committee - McDonnell, Poindexter

Ms. McDonnell reported the State of the Schools address will be at high school auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and the second quarter ends on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mencini asked how is it working with the move of the students from the former Ford Middle School?

Mrs. McDonnell responded that everybody is settling down and all grades are doing well. High school everyone is working to be patient with the construction and sharing of rooms.

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**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

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**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:**

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**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Gammella reported that a conference call was held today with Ford Land and approximately 22 people have viewed and are interested in the Ford property. With Councilman Poindexter's mention of the airport and agree that the city should take advantage of the close proximity to the airport and have taken steps by making that area an Opportunity Zone. The Aerozone Project is also going on with NASA's increased budget and having new people; that also includes the IX Center even though no longer in the City of Brook Park still pays taxes to the city. With the Ford land, the IX Center, the airport, current Ford plant located on Brookpark Road and NASA the city has four good building blocks for the future of this city.

**Questions:**

Mr. Mencini asked Mayor Gammella is the city putting talking with the owners of Brookgate Shopping Center at Snow and Smith Roads?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, numerous times about several things. The problem with strip-malls and malls in general is Amazon, that is making it tough for these brick and mortar stores to operate; the maintenance at Brookgate is better. But, that's a big issue not only in Brook Park but across the United States with stores having difficult competing with Amazon.

Mr. Mencini agreed with Mayor Gammella about Amazon and other cities having the same problem. Brookgate has been around for many years and there is still more that can be done, that's the heart of Brook Park.

Mayor Gammella interjected if there are suggestions stop in the office to talk about them.

Mr. Mencini suggested that Councilmembers take a tour of the pool area to see what exactly should be done and what the public would like.

Mayor Gammella responded the pool area is a huge area of the Recreation Center and has to be addressed. The roof and four walls need to be addressed because they are contiguous with the rest of the building. In speaking with all Councilmembers not one disputes the pool area, the question is how will this be addressed and look at all alternatives. This is a community center so let's see what the community would like done with this. This building needs to be maximized and something done with that area. Back to the issue with Brookgate maybe the owners can be invited to a Caucus meeting to ask questions.

Mr. Orcutt thanked Mayor Gammella for the work that has been done at Brookgate but the one eyesore is the former BP gas station blight blocking that plaza. Has

**Reports and Communications from the Mayor: Questions: cont.**

there been any progress to put something on the corner or removal of the building?

Mayor Gammella responded it took a team to search the owner of that property and have talked with the owner and currently working with the city and hopefully continue to work with the city. There are one or two interested parties for the property on the corner of Snow and Smith Roads; that Council will be most satisfied with the interested parties but first is the removal of the storage tanks and contaminated soils.

Mr. Orcutt commented that is the center of this city and needs to be the focal point. Can you elaborate information with the interested parties at Ford property i.e. a warehouse?

Mayor Gammella responded not being receptive to a warehouse and the employment of 10 to 15 people. That is a huge parcel of property but there are interested parties and will keep Council apprised moving forward.

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

Assistant Finance Director, Healy

Mr. Healy stated the Finance Department has no report this evening.

Law Director Horvath

Mrs. Horvath reported that a new case was filed on December 28<sup>th</sup> involving an appeal of an administrative decision from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. On January 18<sup>th</sup> the city should have a response from the City of Cleveland with regards to the airport litigation. The Sherriff's department will be transferring property on Christene Blvd. to the city within the next 30 days or so. Through the city prosecutor's efforts, the city was able to obtain two vehicles through forfeiture; one being title- transferred to the city and the second an individual will purchase. Mrs. Horvath continued at this point I'm going to do something that I almost never do by talking about an opinion wrote on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The reason I'm speaking about this opinion is numerous people, over the weekend, have made me aware of social media comments, speculation of those comments, gossip and half-truths of those comments. The opinion involves Brook Park resident, Paul Reynolds, who was contacted and gave permission to discuss the matters factored into that opinion. Mr. Reynolds ran for Charter Review Commission and was successful and after the election a question arose to whether Mr. Reynolds was a city employee by serving as an auxiliary police officer. Obviously, if Mr. Reynolds is an employee he is barred by Charter for serving on Charter Review. This was discussed within

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials:**

Law Director Horvath: cont.

the administration and on November 27, 2018 the Mayor's office asked for an opinion. In that opinion certain facts were researched and not go into too much detail but will indicate that Mr. Reynolds serves as an auxiliary police officer and since the end of 2015 has gone unpaid; receiving no funds from the city. For a period of three (3) years and checking with the finance department Mr. Reynolds is not covered under the city's Bureau of Workmen's Compensation policy. Looking at that and a couple of other factors, reviewing the Federal Labor standards and Code of Federal Relations; which designates auxiliary police officers as volunteers and looking at some State of Ohio Attorney General opinions which adopt the same definitions and framework that the federal government does regarding auxiliary police officers. I came to the conclusion in my opinion that Mr. Reynolds is a volunteer and as a volunteer he would be able to serve on the Charter Review Commission. My opinion was requested and directed by the Mayor who thoroughly reviewed and discussed the opinion and indicated to me that he concurs with my opinion, therefore, we are all in agreement with regards to that issue. There is another issue that has arisen that the law department is in the process of providing an opinion for relating to Mr. Reynolds serving on the Charter Review Commission. Mr. Reynold has indicated to the Mayor and I that while we're working on that he was going to delay being sworn-in to the Charter Review Commission and think that is an appropriate response. I wanted to indicate what the true facts of this matter were after seeing all of the speculation and outright gossip on social media. I think it's very detrimental to the community and also has been hurtful to the Reynolds' family and as I said I almost never discuss what I write in opinions to the administration. At this point in time, I felt it was necessary to clear the air, make sure everyone understood what the law department and administration's position is in this matter and further wish to indicate that is one of the things the law department does, gives legal opinions. We certainly are under the Charter and Ohio Revised Code 733.54 designating to give legal opinions when requested; the Mayor and administration properly requested that opinion. I wanted to indicate for everyone here and Council that those are the true facts of this matter.

Service Director Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated to schedule a bulk Monday pickup please call 216-433-7189.

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials:****Engineer Piatak:**

Mr. Piatak reported on the ongoing study being conducted by Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Sewer district contractors will be conducting tests in the upcoming weeks on the city's sewer systems on the following streets of Lindmont, Montvale, Michael, Robert, Shelby, Doris, Harrison and Ashland. The plan is to test a little short of 7,000 feet of sewers on those streets and don't have a schedule when those tests will be conducted.

**Questions:**

Mr. Orcutt stated to Mr. Piatak if there is an update for the Smith Road grant?

Mr. Piatak responded unfortunately no, but did hear from Economic Development Commissioner Adams that there were a number of items on the County Council agenda and not sure if that item was or was not one of the items listed. My intent is to make a phone call to see where it's at and pass that along.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Piatak how does the sewer district identify the streets mentioned?

Mr. Piatak responded a few years ago when the sewer district began rolling this project out I and the previous service director met with sewer personnel to identify areas in the city that have issues of basement flooding and backup of sewer issues and things of that nature. Those areas were highlighted and put on the district's radar and since then flow monitors have been installed at some of those locations and supported the information the city provided.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Piatak when this study is complete will a report be given to the engineer?

Mr. Piatak responded it is my understanding that when the study is complete a report will be compiled and given to the city.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Gardner how are Christmas tree pickups being handled?

Mr. Gardner responded when trees are on put out they are picked up.

Mr. Mencini inquired about the road salt at the garage?

Mr. Gardner responded there is quite a bit of salt on hand, initial orders have filled up the salt bin and dome.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Healy how is the 2019 budget coming along?

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials: Questions: cont.**

Mr. Healy responded moving along well and hoping to have something to the Mayor very shortly.

Mr. Mencini clarified to Mrs. Horvath that Mr. Reynolds is a volunteer?

Mrs. Horvath responded correct, for approximately three (3) years and is not on the city's payroll Mr. Reynolds is not covered under workmen's compensation. Most of the work that Mr. Reynolds does consists of construction and third parties and can think of no reason why in this day and age of society. That the city would have someone who is required to work as an employee go unpaid. After looking at all the facts of this matter Mr. Reynolds is clearly a volunteer and commended all the volunteers who help the city out and think this is a good and confident resolution with this issue; with all bases covered and a few other things that have to be dealt with regarding this matter.

Mr. Salvatore asked Mr. Gardner if the leaf program ended or is it possible to pick up a few leaf bundles left over?

Mr. Gardner responded yes, the leaf program ended on December 21<sup>st</sup> and the city was capable of dumping leaves; the equipment has now switched to snow removal. If a resident has raked leaves since then they can be bagged and put in the black rubbish cart or hold over until spring when the dumping facilities reopen at the service garage.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mrs. Horvath on the Mr. Reynolds situation, he's a tremendous asset and volunteers his time to the city. Is Mr. Reynolds able to be a seated member of the Charter Review Commission or is there holdups?

Mrs. Horvath responded Mr. Reynolds is not barred because he is not a city employee; the Charter speaks of three categories of individuals who would be barred from the Charter Review. That would be an employee or an elected or appointed official. Mr. Reynolds is not barred from serving due to employment but there are a couple of issues that are still being worked on and hesitate to discuss because information is in process. That certainly was the question that had been posed and as I stated I don't want anybody being confused about these matters as to what was going on; that one final piece is still being worked on to make that determination and should be done before the next Charter Review meeting.

Mr. Salvatore asked if there are any jobs that Mr. Reynolds has done that compensation is available that Mr. Reynolds doesn't take?

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials: Questions: cont.**

Mrs. Horvath responded that's a good question, in fact, code section 142 speaks about the auxiliary police department basically states that all auxiliary police officers serve on a voluntary basis. There is only two (2) situations where auxiliary get paid; one is patrol of the municipal parks and properties and two is direct traffic or traffic duty at the IX Center, which is no longer in city limits. In speaking with Mr. Reynolds, Police Chief Foster for the last three years Mr. Reynolds has not performed any duties of patrolling of municipal parks and properties. Mr. Reynolds does serve, as all auxiliary do, on a voluntary basis for the parade or something of that nature.

Mr. Salvatore stated reading the opinion under the section of 'availability of a vehicle' even though a volunteer would still be covered if driving a city vehicle?

Mrs. Horvath responded yes, under the city's policy volunteers do have the ability to drive city vehicles and are covered within the policy limits.

Mr. Salvatore commented if volunteering for the parade and injured in some way, the city would protect them covering any liabilities and insurance in that area?

Mrs. Horvath responded yes, whatever city policy provisions the volunteer would be covered under.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mrs. Horvath if this isn't resolved soon, how can it affect the functionality of the Charter Review Commission.

Mrs. Horvath responded the law department is looking into that issue. At this point the commission would go forward with six, if necessary. I don't think it will be necessary but we must make sure that everything is covered and the issue is resolved.

Mr. Poindexter thanked Mr. Reynolds for volunteering and running for office and hope this is resolved soon and move forward with the Charter Review process. To Mr. Gardner will the city be purchasing any larger black rubbish cans or just sell the smaller cans?

Mr. Gardner responded the smaller cans are 65-gallon and the ordering would be on an as needed basis. My understanding is that the city purchased 400 of the 65-gallon for the seniors and are stuck with them because not many went out to the seniors. All the 96-gallon cans are at residences and have been in service for

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials: Questions: cont.**

about eight years and think by the ten year mark the city will be looking at a reorder and for cost purposes trash cans would be purchased in a bulk amount.

Mr. Poindexter asked if there is any place the resident can go to purchase that type of trash can?

Mr. Gardner responded not aware of any place.

Mr. Vecchio clarified to Mr. Gardner that residents that still have leaves can put them in a rubbish bag in the black cart if they notify the service department?

Mr. Gardner responded yes.

Mayor Gammella stated in question of the Charter Review Commission, the gentleman elected is free to serve on Charter Review anytime; I'll swear him in right now. What the issue is and the Charter is very clear and as Mayor of the city I'm sworn to uphold the laws and Charter of the City of Brook Park. The Charter states Section 16.02 - Charter Review Commission. No employee, elected official or appointed official shall be eligible to serve on a Charter Review Commission; an appointed official. When we talk about auxiliary police officers it's covered under code section 142.01 - Establishment of appointment of members. Three different places it states shall be appointed by the Director of Public Safety in 142.01. In 142.03 twice it states for the duration of his or her appointment and again at the time of their appointment. Finally, they have all police powers but shall perform such police duties as assigned by the chief. This isn't about an individual, this is about can an auxiliary police officer serve on Charter Review. To me, the Charter is very clear they cannot. So the option is this individual can be sworn in tonight and taken off as an auxiliary police officer; anything else would be a violation of the law. Some people are asking what's an official? An official defined in Webster's as a person appointed or elected to an office in charge with certain duties. To me, that's an appointed official and will stand by that and as Mayor of this city I must uphold the Charter and all the laws. I hope the Charter Review Commission will look at this, down the road, but for right now that's what needs to be dealt with. To Mr. Poindexter's statement, what's happened in the past, is there was a Charter Review member who was very ill and the Charter Review Commission went on with six members. We've checked with the Board of Elections and the city was told to go ahead with the six people; so it can be done with six. I just want to make it clear that the issue is not whether Mr. Reynolds is an employee. The issue is not if Mr. Reynolds can serve on Charter Review he can serve he was elected but cannot be an auxiliary police officer and would have to be removed by the Charter he swears to uphold.

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials: Questions: cont.**

Mr. Vecchio asked Mayor Gammella what office would an auxiliary police officer be appointed to?

Mayor Gammella responded Mr. Reynolds is an auxiliary police officer and that's the office he is appointed to. It's clear with the establishment of members; appointment of members shall be appointed. They are an appointment and the Charter states no appointed official can serve on the Charter Review. This isn't an issue of personality, it's an issue of the Charter and code section.

Mrs. Horvath commented sometimes in work matters differences of opinions arise. My opinion after looking into the situation is that I would opine that Mr. Reynolds is not an appointed official and base that on decision on read material. Including an Ohio General opinion 70-035 which is somewhat outdated but in checking has never been overruled. That opinion ruled that a sheriff is an official but a deputy sheriff is not. The rule is that deputies are not public officers in order to constitute a position of public office. That the duties of the position must be independent of control and direction of the superior officer. The incumbent must be clothed with some part of sovereignty of the state or, in this case, the municipality, to be exercised in the interest of the public as required. Certainly, a deputy sheriff has no independent powers and/or duties and is only designated to follow instruction that the sheriff gives them. Further it communicates the mere fact that one takes an oath and required to give a bond does not constitute him and/or her a public officer. While there was more discussion this evening than preferred I think it's clear that the law department and administration have a difference of opinion that is being worked on and continue to work on this to hopefully come to a resolution. I am still researching and will be presenting an opinion along with some other opinions and see where this goes.

Mr. Salvatore stated Mr. Reynolds was elected by the people of this community and has a right to serve as an elected official but has not been sworn in to date, correct?

Mrs. Horvath concurred.

Mr. Salvatore asked if the Charter Review has had any meetings?

Mrs. Horvath responded I believe the Charter Review was sworn in January 2<sup>nd</sup> and may have had a preliminary meeting.

Mr. Salvatore clarified with Mrs. Horvath that Mr. Reynolds hasn't been sworn in to date.

**Reports and Communications from other departments, commissions and other public officials: Questions: cont.**

Mrs. Horvath concurred.

Mr. Salvatore asked why can't some kind of gentleman's agreement by giving Mr. Reynolds a temporary leave of absence with a guarantee to be reinstated, sworn in to start work on the Charter Review Commission, while the details are worked out.

Mrs. Horvath responded I hesitate to talk about that in public and don't want to put Mr. Reynolds on the spot as to what his desires may or may not be. As indicated all reasonable people will work to some resolution of these problems.

Mr. Salvatore commented Mr. Reynolds was elected by the residents and I would like to see him at the first meeting, he deserves to be there. The Charter Review Commission usually makes their presentation to Council in June, after that the commission's work is done.

Mr. Vecchio asked Mrs. Horvath if there have been any past rulings regarding Charter Review Commissioners serving on the commission and having held another office? If so, what has past practice been?

Mrs. Horvath responded going through all rulings the department has but this particular issue in the city has never been addressed. The closest the department found was in 2012, Law Director Jamison was required to give an opinion as to whether or not some individuals serving on board and commissions were allowed to serve. Mr. Jamison did, in fact, rule that these individuals, think there four of them, were allowed to be on the Charter Review Commission; the Charter was subsequently changed in 2013. Reading the Charter immediately after indicating that appointed officials shall not serve there is a list of people including the following; so it's quite clear those offices are excluded. The problem here is in order to have an office you have to have some sort of discretion usually with a beginning and end or tenure to the office. To say, that someone is a volunteer has discretion when that, in fact, is not the case I find it hard to difficult to believe that Mr. Reynolds is an appointed official. To me, an appointed official is someone who exercises some sort of control of power on behalf of the municipality that they are appointed to. We are looking into other things to see if we can find something definitive.

Mr. Vecchio clarified prior to 2013 it appears the former law director ruled that person on those commissions took an oath and were able to serve in both capacities.

Mrs. Horvath responded correct, so the issue is Mr. Reynolds is an auxiliary police officer, not an employee but appointed official.

Mr. Mencini stated November, 2018 ten people ran for the seven Charter Review Commission positions and the community elected seven. To Mrs. Horvath, did you contact the Attorney General’s office or the Ohio Ethics Commission?

Mrs. Horvath responded the Ohio Attorney General’s office will be happy to write an opinion for a county prosecutor, statutory cities with no Charters but do not write opinions for chartered cities because each Charter is unique, therefore, they defer to the city’s law director. I looked at an ethics opinion dealing with Grace Marketing Commission and whether or not the people on that commission if they had a public office or not. Looking at that opinion it seems that there has to be some sort of discretion or decision-making capability in order to have a public office. I do not believe the way the auxiliary police officers operate that they really have very much discretion, don’t carry guns, not allowed to make arrests and not allowed to do many things that police officers do. Auxiliaries are a vital part of the public safety and many duties performed are mundane are necessary but are not duties that require any sort of discretion or decision-making. If this was a situation that involved municipal police officers, then my conclusion might be different by saying that person is an appointed official. Looking at this and the ordinance designates that all auxiliary police officers are unclassified service, not classified as a police officer would be. I certainly would opine that this is not an appointed office in the sense that members of boards are making decisions and would be an appointed official.

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

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**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:**

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**Note:** Due to several requests the Remarks from the audience and response to the audience segments are verbatim.

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

Verbatim as requested:

Jennifer Roberts

5368 West 151<sup>st</sup> Street

Announced on behalf of the Brook Park Neighborhood Watch Group; the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the large meeting room of the Brook Park Library. I'm working on a final confirmation but we anticipate having Officer Koz attend as our guest speaker and will be discussing some of the biggest safety concerns in Brook Park. Based upon last year's crime reports and trends, the police department are working on their lists now. Also, for those individuals with pre-teen or teenage children or grandchildren you'll want to mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We have Caroline Wathey from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force scheduled for a presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Brook Park Library, in the large meeting room. Presentation work will explore the dark side of the internet and social media and provide tools for us to keep the youth in our community safe from predators, human traffickers and others with ill-intent. Also, internet bullying, sexting and dangerous apps will be discussed. This is open to members of the community, so please join us, you don't need to be a member of the Neighborhood Watch Group to attend. Finally, if you are on Facebook and would like to join our group on Facebook you'll need to look for the Brook Park Neighborhood Watch, it is a closed group so you must join to see the conversations. Joining the group will help to stay up-to-date on our meetings, events and concerns in the city. However, we do limit our membership to residents' of Brook Park and those with a real interest in the city, such as a business owner in the limits of Brook Park.

Brandy Reynolds

6060 Middlebrook Blvd.

I do apologize I wasn't planning on speaking today, but decided to, I fully believe that it is the person, himself, that's being attacked not the position. If it wasn't him then it was me, if it wasn't me then it was Brandon and it's always the last name that is attacked, so it's getting kind of old. I really wonder who's next on that board then? Will it be Jacob because you're his dad, is it going to be somebody else because they're involved with the Neighborhood Watch? It's the same people just stirring the pot over and over so why are we letting outside forces continue to run our city, through the city's own administration? It seems like you find them on Facebook then all of a sudden it comes to the administration and then it goes right back on Facebook. A meeting that is supposed to happen between three, four, five people it's not between those people; a couple of hours later it's right on Facebook again. I don't understand how this keeps on happening, how this administration keeps letting it happen and it's just an embarrassment to the city. If it's not always the same people, then why are the same people always involved? Or if they don't get their way they stomp their feet or they just sue city residents; which is getting old too. Last thing, I just believe

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

the word appointment is being used in different context between someone's an appointed official and someone that is appointed to a committee.

Joan Markusic  
13911 Bellbrook

In answer to your question two meetings ago, Council President, we don't have to worry if we're on Facebook it's inevitable; it's brought to us, you can't escape it. I want to comment on Tom Troyer's remark at that meeting also. He said that the roof and the walls of the recreation center need to be repaired and the pool area; we need to get our pool, the walls and the roof done. Why do we need to get the pool done along with the roof and the walls? Why are we not attacking the walls and the roof of the pool area and putting the pool on hold? Our city, right now, is in major transition; we're losing the Ford plant, we're waiting to see what's going to go on that property. We have other ventures that we're looking to see what we can do to bring income into our city. We, right now, are not financially liquid enough I don't feel to warrant over \$4,000 a month on a pool. Are you going to raise the recreation center costs? Are you going to have a special fee if you just use the pool or just add that on to the recreation center costs to use the pool? Our city needs to get financially and economically more developed. You talked about having a pirate's cove thing in there because Strongsville has it and it does very well. That's fine but Strongsville even though they may be losing businesses it's going to take a heck of a lot of business loss for them to be financially strapped. Our city does not have the business or the size and the people coming in and out of that city. They have a lot of medical buildings, office buildings that bring more people into their city, we don't have that. You're putting an added cost onto our residents and its taxing our residents financially because you're wanting them to pay that \$4.1 thousand dollars a month to run a pool. That's just the utilities that doesn't include everything else that's going to be added on top of that, you're compounding another financial burden on the city as we're losing business. Why not wait until you get your businesses in here and get us financial stable and know what monies we are going to have. Your living in a pipe-dream and that's not going to cut it for our city, we can't make it like that. I think that it's all great those plans are fabulous but you basically had another company come in on another survey like past Mayor Coyne did. To give you the same basic outline of what needs to be done to this recreation center and we're back at the same point that we were with him. The only difference is now it looks good because we had someone else come in and do it and it's because your administration had this company come in as opposed to the past administration's company come in to give you the same information. It's like we haven't learned anything new, haven't been told anything new, the only thing is now we know it's going to cost us so much money for just utilities for that pool and we know nothing more. We need to get our financial and economic situation together

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

before you start taking on a cost to our city. I don't think it's worth paying to have a pool put in. Pay to have the walls and the roof lowered in that section; pay to have that done, get that all built up, get that situation out of the way. Then after you get the new companies in, after you get all of your economic plans set and have that going and we have a steady amount of money that we know is coming back into our city; then attack your pool. It doesn't make sense to keep dragging on and on having these walls falling down, the roof leaking and keep on saying we need to have this done but we have to get the pool too. Scrap the pool for now put it on hold that pool isn't going anywhere because nobody's taking it. I'm sure that if we wait for that when we know that we have the money coming into our city from our businesses. Then we can think about putting in that pool and getting it up and running but until then get the roof and the walls fixed. As far as the Facebook stuff goes if that's what's holding up him being on this Charter Review that just goes to show my statement is absolutely true. You are held by your butt by that Facebook and whoever it is that you sold your self too. If Facebook is the people that's doing that then you have problems.

Rob Slattery  
17000 St. Clair

I didn't plan on getting up and speaking tonight but with the Safety Committee or Community Watch or what the actual title is. I attended that ICACT (Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force) meeting, the power point before. If you have a child, grandchild, friend, niece or nephew that has access to the internet or has a cell phone. You have to be at that meeting and it indefinitely should be packed; we had one in the City of Brooklyn and had 40 people show up. I learned things that were so frightening I'm glad that I have a 30 and 20 year-olds. I'm glad that I don't have little children that play these video games online. You will learn so much I just started taking pictures of the power point, I couldn't take the notes fast enough. Do yourself a favor and attend that meeting.

Tom Greenlee  
15841 Paulding Blvd.

I'm going to address the situation that the law director spoke about because I think we have a very serious problem in our city. The possibility that an election was corrupted should not be tolerated in our city. Any incident that would cause the voters' decisions to be invalid should be looked into. This is a serious problem that originates with Council. Council is charged in the Charter or in the Codified Ordinances with providing seven electors to the Board of Elections to be elected, you didn't do that. One of the candidates that you provided you were not aware of but potential exists that was not qualified to serve as a commissioner for the Charter Review. Had you known that, at the time of the candidacy filing, all of this could have been avoided; everything could have been worked out before now. As

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

it is, the voters elected seven people and it looks like the possibility is being discussed to do it with six; the voters elected seven. Why are we defrauding the voters? Now, in the meantime, how did it all come about? That's the problem, how did this whole situation occur? The individual involved as I've been researching and attempting to get and my information that I get...I've got 55 pages here that I paid for which is the public information on this subject so far. But, the individual as far as I can understand attempted to do the right thing. He was aware that the possibility existed that there might be a problem. As I understand from statements being made on the internet that he contacted our law director and asked for an opinion. She advised him that he would not have a conflict of interest, as far as I know, from what has been said publicly on the internet. The employee matters and labor matters are an administrative affair, not a legal affair. The chief administrator of our city is our Mayor and our Mayor makes those decisions, we know that very clearly from the past four years. We were told that very clearly and that's the way it worked and actually that's the way it should work; the Mayor is the head of the city. Now, he does seek opinions from various people, various organizations, whomever he can when he's about to make a serious decision. He tries to get opinions from anybody that he can to help him make that decision. He contacted the very man that you people hired to give him that instruction. This is the ordinance from February of last year that all of you here passed this. I'm going to skip part of it and get to, for me, the essential part that says Whereas, the city has specialized issues requiring specialized technical and legal assistance, employee related and employee benefits related matters; specialized issues. The results of these matters will have a very significant fiscal and operational impact on the city, sounds like it was written yesterday you passed it in February of last year; this is a serious fiscal and operational impact. Who is the administrative head of the city? The law director has her position it's very clear in our Charter; her duties are to serve the Mayor to give an opinion but she's not exclusive in those opinions. The man that you hired for employee-related matters as the expert gave a different opinion. He said the man is an employee. At that time, the only thing they discussed was whether or not he was an employee. There are three categories who cannot serve and the last category is an appointed official officer of the city. Now, when you become an auxiliary policeman you swear an oath of your office and that sworn oath is recorded and kept on file at the Council office, so the clerk would have those oaths. When you become an elected official you also take an oath of office. What we have here is the possibility of one person having sworn two different oaths, or two different capacities, officially for the City of Brook Park. No, that's not what was intended.

Mr. Mencini - Point of clarification, Mr. Council President.

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

Verbatim as requested:

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Mencini, what's your point?

Mr. Greenlee - Pardon me, Mr. Mencini, pardon me.

Mr. Mencini - No, there's a point of clarification.

Mr. Greenlee - I'm not relinquishing...

Mr. Mencini - Was Mr. Reynolds sworn in on the Charter, was he sworn in, I'm asking. Was he sworn in for the Charter Review yet?

Mrs. McDonnell - No. (speaking from the audience).

Mr. Mencini - thank you.

Mr. Greenlee - I'm sorry what's the question?

Mr. Vecchio - he asked the question if Mr. Reynolds was sworn in for the Charter Review Commission as of yet.

Mr. Greenlee - No, he was not.

Mr. Vecchio - that was his point of clarification.

Mr. Greenlee - In my position I want to uphold our voters in our election, that the fact and is our nation.

Mr. Mencini - so do we.

Mr. Greenlee - he was elected. He asked to be elected and I would like to see him serving as our Charter Review Commissioner, that's a simple matter. It's unfortunate, the Mayor has made his decision he can't do both. The Codified Ordinances and the Charter all support that and the specialized lawyer that you people hired for that purpose.

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Greenlee, can I ask a Point of Clarification from you also?

Mr. Greenlee - go ahead.

Mr. Vecchio - you've eluded to twice this specialized attorney.

Mr. Greenlee - okay.

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

Verbatim as requested:

Mr. Vecchio - how do you know a specialized attorney has been involved?

Mr. Greenlee- how do I know?

Mr. Vecchio - yes.

Mr. Greenlee - he gave an opinion; he gave an opinion before the Mayor ever made his decision.

Mr. Vecchio - okay, so you know what Council does not, sir, is my clarification.

Mr. Greenlee - pay \$2.60 and get yourself a copy of all...

Mr. Vecchio - Council, is unaware of this opinion, that is why I'm asking you this question.

Mr. Greenlee - Mr. Budzik, your labor lawyer, gave an opinion far before it ever came out, before the Mayor told his commissioner to send a letter to the candidate. So you have two opinions right now officially contradicting each other. One that the Mayor has accepted contradicts what the law director is saying but you have to understand these are not rulings. Only the man at the court makes rulings; these are just opinions. Anyone that has to be in a position to make decisions understands very clearly. You want to have as many people contributing to your assistance in making those decisions as you can get. He did, he made the decision, he contacted the person and told him we're not telling you what to do. We're saying you can't do both at the same time and I, personally, would prefer to see him be that elected official; because that's what the voters asked for. So, by the law director never having been asked she has made the point earlier; she is required to give her opinion when she's asked, she was never asked. She gave her opinion and it turned out that it's wrong and she's trying to become administrative head...

Grumblings from the audience.

Mr. Vecchio - audience, audience, please.

Mr. Greenlee - she's trying to become administrative head of the city. We have an administrator he makes the decisions. He has made the decision as strongly as he could he is of the understanding. His understanding is that the candidate is an official of the city and cannot hold both positions; that's the Charter, that's the Codified Ordinances, that's the opinion of our specialized labor lawyer. So that should be the end of it. Why is this going on? Our law director is the city's lawyer

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

who represents the city, represents the Mayor, represents you and represents the boards and commissions; not an individual. It's absurd that we have a question here after all of this time possibly court costs coming up based upon trying to argue that person isn't an employee. The Mayor's not arguing that the Mayor wants to see him protected with Worker's Compensation. We send someone out on the street with the crazies that are out there today, I don't care what position you have. We are deliberately sending him out there without being covered by insurance, that's immoral. I would never that our city would do that with an individual representing the city in a hazardous position; potentially life-threatening at any time. Anytime some crazy with a gun wants to start shooting at a crowd that you're working and it hits you. You're not covered and have to foot all that expense; you're going to send him out there like that. I would never do that and would never support anybody doing that, no decision is worth it. Let him be protected if he's going to stay at his job, let him be protected. All the other auxiliary policemen are protected they are covered by industrial compensation. Why would we have one who is not? This is a serious matter; you can't just sweep it under the rug it involves you. It involves your decisions that you people have made and you're going to have to make more come July.

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Greenlee, another point of clarification, I'll ask you? What decision does Council in the matters of who is elected by the residents of the city?

Mr. Greenlee - I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said.

Mr. Vecchio - What decision does Council have in who the residents of the city elect to a position? Council does not put the ballot forth; people pull their signature petitions like any other elected position; so this is not a Council-matic action. Now, as you did clearly state this would be an administrative action and also would be an action with the law department, not a Council-matic action for clarification purposes.

Mr. Greenlee - for clarification purposes it's not a matter of the law department other than to offer an opinion to the administration, that's the extent of the legal department. The Charter under the Charter Review section states clearly that Council shall provide to the Board of Elections seven electors to be elected to the Charter Review Commission. You did not do that...

Mr. Vecchio - for your point of clarification what the Charter says that Council shall provide for the non-partisan election, not will it provide the persons who are running, it will provide for an election to residents.

Mr. Greenlee - keep going with the statement.

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

Mr. Vecchio - from the city to constitute of seven electors to constitute a Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Greenlee - now you got it.

Mr. Vecchio - right, we provide

Mr. Greenlee - who is providing that?

Mr. Vecchio - allow me to finish, for your point of clarification. We provide to the residents nothing more than a non-partisan election. We do not provide the people that are there; that is up to the voting populous to elect. The people that want to run for an elected office obtain signatures as per our Charter; they solicit for those signatures obtain them correctly and get their names on the ballot. At that point residents then vote for them, Council has nothing more to do than provide for the residents an election; not a ballot of people. So if you're going to make a statement let's be clear and concise please.

Mr. Greenlee - let's be clear that you just violated what it said, so you can have your opinion; we're all entitled to an opinion. However, the wording is clear seven electors to be elected at an election in November provided by Council. You did not provide them with seven qualified electors. There are qualifications when you want to file for an office, any office, there are qualifications that you have to meet to be qualified. It doesn't make any difference if you want to run or not. If you haven't lived here for a year you can't run. If you fall into the category of the who cannot serve as Charter Review Commissioner, it doesn't make a difference if you want to run for it or not. There are qualifications and if you don't meet those qualifications then you can't run. That was under question and I have to admire the man for knowing that was a possibility and try to find out before it ever came to a problem. He got the wrong advice but he got advice without even being asked for. The law director made that comment under her remarks that she's required by law to give her opinion when it is asked for. The Mayor, the administrative head of the city, did not ask her for her opinion on that qualified elector. She should not have given it, she should not have interfered or stepped into an administrative matter and made it public throughout the whole city, everybody with their opinions and wild statements. Degrading our city and degrading city officials, degrading their intelligence, degrading their capabilities what they're doing. Why? All because an election was degraded because the law director stepped in where she should not have stepped in. Even now, I heard her make a statement that I know was a misstatement talking about a ruling. There's no ruling (Mr.) Jamison did not make a ruling, he gave an opinion. Which since should be negated because the Charter was amended. The only thing that our lawyers can do is give you an opinion and the Mayor asked for those opinions and

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

then made his decision. You heard him again tonight, he stands by his decision that they are two separate offices of the city involved and you cannot serve in both of them simultaneously. But, it's your problem, it's the whole city that's involved in this being corrupted; our fundamental concepts are being corrupted. We have three separate co-equal independent branches of government; the executive, legislative and judicial. He is the administrator, no one else can speak for him, no one else can challenge him except in court; then she has to serve him. If this were to come to court she has to go to court and defend his decision. In fact, it even says here in one of the requests that were made by his commissioner. Was to ask her for her opinion on the amended Charter provisions and supporting the Mayor 's decision, that he already made. Asking for that opinion what is she going to say I can't support you. I'm not going to give you an opinion, I'm not going to represent you when we go to court.

Mr. Vecchio - who is that person you're referring to when you say her?

Mr. Greenlee - I have a memo part of this whole grouping from the Human Resource Commissioner asking her to give her opinion on the amended Charter provisions and her opinion supporting the Mayor's position. I'm sure she would remember that's what she does handle. I don't know if she has come forward with a memo I have so many pieces of paper here. I'm not certain whether she has come forward with that memo... oh, here it is. November 27<sup>th</sup>, no that was from Carol, I'm sorry from the law director. November 27<sup>th</sup> from the commissioner says Carol, I spoke with the Mayor regarding the opinion from 2012 prior to the 2013 amendment to Section 16.02 of the Charter. Will you please prepare a memorandum regarding the same and supporting the reasoning behind our decision. Supporting the reasoning behind our decision, that's her job; that's what she was elected to do. Support and defend the Mayor, not publicly, contradict him. We have a serious problem and this memorandum from the labor lawyer that you say you've never seen.

Mr. Vecchio - correct.

Mr. Greenlee - he also, inadvertently, now that I just thought of it. His memorandum said that you have the ability to solve this whole thing. All you have to do is pass another ordinance separating out the auxiliary police officers. Until you do that there's no way to get around the decision that has been made. That's the memorandum of the opinion from Budzik, your labor lawyer that you hired and paying good money. To be your expert in employee and labor opinion and negotiate your labor contracts. She's saying avoid that it's all wrong. Why? The expert is all wrong avoid his opinion, ignore it, do away with it, it's all wrong. Why was it all wrong? She didn't even say what it was she said it's all wrong.

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

What's that going to do when you have negotiations with labor contracts why would we want to listen to him for, he's all wrong in the things he's saying. That's what you're being faced with his expertise is now in question. This is a serious matter and you have it within you to cure it.

Lavaine Cates  
15499 Remora

I have a couple of things I want to say and shame on all of you for allowing him to continue going on when he said nothing. I shouldn't say nothing true because I'm sure some of it is true to fault. I think there should have been a 'Point of Order' up there and I get it, you're letting him talk. When he says one thing I want to make clear that Mrs. Horvath, our law director, is here to serve the Mayor, no. Let's look at the Charter section 6.02 the law director shall serve the Mayor, the Council, the administrative officers and departments and the commission and boards and the city (us) as legal counsel and shall represent the city in all proceedings in court or before any administrative body. So, she doesn't just serve the Mayor she serves us that's why we elected her. The other thing I'd like to ask you Mayor Gammella because I saw you shaking your head when Carol said you asked for her opinion. He said it multiple times you did not ask for her, the Mayor did not ask for her opinion. You shook your head yes, it's on tape so I'd like an answer. I think we all deserve one whether you asked for an opinion from our law director on this situation.

Paul Reynolds  
5860 Michael

Let's get this straight and simple, there's an awful lot of information coming out of a private meeting. First of all, for me to be an auxiliary your statement that the safety director appointed me. But, in fact, over at least 40 years this is how the auxiliary work; we have a commander and a captain and you apply to be an auxiliary. They look it over and come back to you yes you are, no you're not, did not ever go to the safety director. You're not appointed I applied for the position and first of all with that labor lawyer. Find out what questions she asked him; did she ask him...

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Reynolds, Paul, to Council.

Mr. Reynolds - if she asked him if he is getting paid and she said yes. Yes, I'm an employee but did she ask him is he a volunteer? Is he an employee; we don't know. I've lived in this city for 60 years everything and anything I did volunteer; coached for 40-years baseball, football volunteer. So if I'm sworn in and I'm an elected official then every police officer in that police department is an appointed officer.

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

Verbatim as requested:

Mr. Vecchio - seeing no one else, we're going to move forward.

Audience member - I have...

Mr. Vecchio - Brandy, Ms. Reynolds we went through once, thank you. That concludes letter L.

Mr. Poindexter - motion to address the audience.

Mr. Salvatore - Mr. Chairman...

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Salvatore.

Mr. Salvatore - I have a 'Point of Order.

Mr. Vecchio - I didn't hear a 'Point of Order', sir.

Mr. Salvatore - I just said it.

Mr. Vecchio - Yes, you're 'Point of Order', sir.

Mr. Salvatore - anybody coming to that microphone should never be turned away.

Audience member - that's right she needs to...

Mr. Salvatore - if Ms. Reynolds come up a second time and talk for a few minutes, I don't think she should be denied.

Audience member - you allowed it before, you allowed it before, let her...

Mr. Vecchio - Liz, Liz please, Liz please; allow Council.

Audience member keeps speaking.

Mr. Vecchio - Liz, please 'Point of Order', Liz please stop interrupting, thank you. Council, that's fine, we can go all night with this. I'm just trying to move through the process.

Mr. Mencini - I don't think it's going to go much further, I don't think.

Mr. Vecchio - Ms. Reynolds, please come back up.

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

Verbatim as requested:

Brandi Reynolds

6060 Middlebrook Blvd.

Is Rachel (McDonnell) appointed to the school board committee that she is on the agenda? Is Rachel also an appointed teacher for the city? Those are my questions.

Mr. Vecchio - thank you.

Joan Markusic

13911 Bellbrook

I just have one question, I want to know how this person gets all this information before Council and I want to know why people... do they not have a life, do these people have a life? Are they living, are they doing anything then trying to backstab, degrade and belittle and bring out every kind of negative information they can get on anybody in this city and everywhere else. What is wrong with you, people, get a life. This man has more information than anybody else I've ever seen in my life and he's an old man.

Mr. Vecchio - thank you, that concludes letter L, we're going to move forward.

**Motion** by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to address the audience.

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

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

Mr. Vecchio - the floor is yours.

Mr. Poindexter - thank you Council President, I know there's a lot going on with Mr. Reynolds and Charter Review and don't think it's something that will be solved right here, right now. Thank you all for coming and speaking on that and I expect to see a resolution soon on that. I would like to address some residents on some other topics. Ms. Roberts, thank you for coming and sharing the Brook Park Neighborhood Watch information, I like the group, and will try to attend more meetings. That's one of my New Year resolutions to try and attend more Neighborhood Watch meetings, thank you for coming. Ms. Markusic in talking about the pool building looking at the business case analysis that Mr. Scott provided a few weeks back. Just to replace the roof, ceiling, tuck-pointing and retrofit LED's would probably cost about \$850,000 to get all that done. So we're going to have to scrape somethings together to make that work and I don't know if this Leopardo Group proposal is going to do that or not. We're very early in the process and we'll see where that goes but I think we can agree. Like the Mayor mentioned earlier in his report that those three items definitely need to be addressed; the roof, ceiling and tuck-pointing of the walls; so that's where we are

**Address audience: cont.**

on that. That's probably the bare-minimum to get those three things accomplished to use the room for any other purpose. On that note thank you everyone for coming to the microphone, I know the courage it takes to speak up there and applaud you for that.

Mr. Salvatore - one quick comment relative to the Council not doing their job as far as providing for the Charter Review Commission for a non-partisan election. The Charter is pretty clear on that first sentence that we are to provide for a non-partisan election. None of our elections are non-partisan throughout the year, the voting year but this one is a non-partisan election; that's why the Charter reads that way, in my opinion. We're to provide for seven people to get elected which we do that, we had ten or eleven people running, seven were elected. As far as the Council doing something wrong that just didn't happen. Council did what they were supposed to do. The Charter was followed exactly what it intends to say, it reads that way and we did have a non-partisan election that elected seven people, I don't think the Council did anything wrong here.

Mr. Scott - one quick question to the law director concerning the comments made by the resident. The labor lawyer who does he report to concerning legal issues. Basically, that's is free to run...

Mr. Vecchio - Mr. Scott, if I can interrupt, please real quick, the problem with this is this is audience participation.

Mr. Scott - responding to Mr. Greenlee's comment.

Mr. Vecchio - you're asking for an assist to respond, okay then fine.

Mr. Scott - who is the labor lawyer delegated to?

Mrs. Horvath - the ordinance says that labor counsel and I are co-counsel. So he is hired for his expertise in the labor area and obviously being co-counsel means that you keep each other informed. You discuss strategies and you make sure the two of you are on the same page. Obviously, the ordinance also says that he serves the Mayor is labor matters and that's true. If I may further indicate so that everything is quite clear my client is the City of Brook Park. There are times when I represent the Mayor, I represent Council, I represent a board or commission; that is all designated in the Charter. There are times when all of these various entities ask for opinions from the law director. The only person who can give an official opinion with regard to the Charter is the law director. Certainly, the Mayor can consult with legal counsel but it is rather like having an opinion who should be the coach for the Cleveland Browns. We all have opinions as to who should serve as that coach but ultimately there is only one person that is going to make that

**Address audience: cont.**

decision, or one group. With regard to Charter opinions the law director is the one who will make determinations and opinions with regard to Charter issues, is the best explanation I can give you. Certainly, anyone can ask anyone for an opinion but the law department is the one that gives the opinion with regard to Charter issues.

Mr. Scott - thank you, just needed clarification on it.

Mr. Mencini - to Ms. Roberts, Block Watch very good and one of the things I might suggest is Saturday here is a day full of children of all ages. Might be a nice place if allowed to advertise to get a lot of people at the ICACT meeting; your group does a good job. To Ms. Markusic comment that people have all day and think sometimes I'm around too much but do get away, Fridays in December were crazy and it was everything away from here with so many things to go to with so many people. By no means does this consume my whole day and life and I was thinking while you were saying that it's an election year. When I first heard that it was questioned on one of the people of the Charter Review, when I first heard it was questioned. I said this will be big and don't hear it out there, once in a while somebody may bring it up but nothing like this. My point is in time this will get taken care of and go the extent, it's an election year. I look at it as it's kind of too bad. Because we got a lot done last year and will always get things done but it's sad that it had to come to that because this is a good city. People go this way, or that way or we'll use that. This is a good Council up here and we'll get things right with the administration and directors. The other thing with that when you talk about volunteers, people who help out, whether it be a coach, water flowers or volunteer police force, whatever it is. So many communities thrive on their volunteers and want volunteers; people who are going to take their time and put their time in. Whether it is one of you out there it means a lot to have volunteers, we don't to diminish that and take that away from anything or anybody. My take on the pool is sooner or later something is going to have to be done with that. Joan, you said we pool we have to have the pool and don't what we're going to do; hopefully take this to the public and they tell us what to do. Like the previous administration said in that meeting what do you want in this room, how do you want to pay for it? I also think the Mayor's has to be going that way too, we're not going to make that decisions ourselves, it should be up to the public what do they want? There's nothing wrong with that and I have to say everyone up there spoke their opinion and love the crowd that was here and have said that before. Hopes it doesn't go like every Council meeting because I'll, be more than honest, there are a lot of people that say things about comments from the audience and I don't like it. Because there's a lot people and Councilman Salvatore says it all the time. You hear a lot of good things up there but it's must be productive and move ahead but sometimes it isn't.

**Address audience: cont.**

Mr. Orcutt - I'll be brief here, to Mrs. Roberts I appreciate you coming here and think you need to advertise here more often and is something I will continue to come to your meetings, I think they are very important. Ms. Markusic, you made some good points about the pool and appreciate you coming to the microphone frequently. I think it is something like Councilman Poindexter said we're just starting with that and do need to hear; I'm curious to hear what the Mayor has to bring forward. It doesn't mean what was presented is what we have to get but think you brought some good points about the structure of the building. Those are things that I'm thinking of right now with the roof, take care of the walls. We want to provide the best service to our residents' and obviously we do have to afford that. Every point you made was very good and I, for one Councilman, want to see what the Mayor has, want to see what these proposals look like, just wanted to mention that. To Mr. Greenlee, Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Cates, I want to talk about what you talked about and think it shows a little division in our community as per normal; that's the Brook Park we live in and the division I see on a daily basis. I try to work through that through discussion, debate and think it's good to have some dialogue. It's tough for me to see because of the individual we're talking about and someone I support, I supported him and will publicly state that. Mr. Reynolds, I know you served your country, this city, the service department, serve as a volunteer, as an auxiliary police officer and coach. I saw you out there this summer don't think you were technically coaching but you were running the whole show. I think this is horrible what you're going through, I think you'd be terrific for the Charter Review. I want to make this one last statement and back up what our law director said. I'm very confident that our law director and Mayor will figure this out; I don't think it's as big as an issue as we bring up. I've said that before on different items and know we can talk about other seats and 700 comments about that. I'm confident that we'll get this right and hope that everything works out for this community. Thank you all for coming to the microphone and thank you to the law director and Mayor for your opinion.

Mr. Vecchio - I want to address a couple of things, one is first Ms. Roberts the ICACT is great. Obviously, they were here during our safety fair, the Internet Crimes against Children through the county is an amazing group and the amazing things they do, thank you for getting them to come and do that presentation. Mr. Greenlee, I can't leave without kind of backing up on what Mr. Salvatore said. As Council President cannot allow this Council to be put in a negative light like you're attempting to do with stating that we are responsible for this election. As Councilman Salvatore, who has been up here for nearly 30 years, clearly stated and I fully support with our Charter. Our Charter says, plain and simple, the Council shall provide for the non-partisan election which we did. With that, these candidates went out did the work to get their names on a ballot; hard work having that done myself and all these gentlemen up here, all elected officials who have done this. We work extremely hard to get their names there and then to have the

**Address audience: cont.**

voters who turn out at the polls, believe over 5,000 people that was there. These people received resounding approval from our residents to be the voice for them, they have spoken. There’s an issue that needs to take place that as Mr. Orcutt stated our Law Director and our administrator, our Mayor will work out. The law of public opinion is purely that, it’s an opinion. We all know what the statement is, we all have one. Unless yourselves can provide those law degrees like I’m sure Mrs. Horvath has or other persons. I think your opinions are worthless let them do the job that they are elected to do in their positions. To make the negative and disparaging remarks does this city no good, it does nothing to help move this city forward. This Council, I believe, is a Council to lay the path for everybody else to follow. We do not want to follow the paths that have been laid before because many of them have taken us down a broken road.

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

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

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

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

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**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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

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

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

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *February 19, 2019*

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



## Aviation and Environmental

On December 19<sup>th</sup> I <sup>went on</sup> took a tour of Cleveland Hopkins Airport. My tour guides were Robert Kennedy, Airport Director and Jaquelynn Muhammed, legislative <sup>LITSON</sup> ambassador. I was able to see, first hand, some of the vital operations, meet some of the behind the scenes staff, and some of the equipment that makes the airport run smoothly. From the controllers, to the baggage handlers, to the security personnel, our neighbor is a well-oiled machine.

A few interesting points from our meeting:

- CLE is one of very few airports who not only survived losing a major carrier's HUB, but CLE has actually thrived since losing our HUB
- When we had our HUB, only around 50% of passengers originated or destined here. Meaning many of the passengers never left the airport. Now, well over 80% either depart from here or their destination is here. That means there is a steady flow of traffic coming into, and out of, the airport
- In 2018, they were projecting over 9.7 million passengers passing through CLE. When I took the tour, they were expecting to meet that projection, and possibly beat it. Not sure of the final total of passengers at this time
- This year, they are projecting to surpass the 10 million passenger mark.
- They expect to be ~~out of Gate space~~ <sup>air fuel gate capacity</sup> some time in 2019 or early 2020

They are currently in the process of preparing their new "master plan". They hope to have it prepared by some time in 2020. I asked if it would include any new runways, concourses, or major infrastructure. Mr. Kennedy said all options are on the table at this time, but it's still too early in the process to say definitively what it might look like. He did say that concourse D would need to be addressed. AS it is now, it can't be used with the size of the newer planes. It would have to either be renovated and redesigned, repurposed, and/or rebuilt all together. It remains to be seen what might happen with that.

Realizing the economic potential surrounding the airport, Fairview Park has purchased the old nasa building on brookpark rd, directly north of the airport. They plan on building a new hotel and conference center. I'd like to urge our economic development department to continue to explore our options to capture as much of the residual economic potential stemming from the airport.

Also, Mr. Kennedy told me there are many seasonal employment opportunities, if any resident might need an opportunity. Go to [clevelandairport.com/jobs](http://clevelandairport.com/jobs)

I'd like to thank the Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Muhammed for the experience, and I look forward to continuing to build a strong, neighborly relationship with our airport!

