

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:34 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

SCOTT, SCHMUCK, ORCUTT, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE

Also in attendance were Mayor Gammella, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle, Recreation Director Elliott and Engineer Piatak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDINS

1. Caucus Prior to meeting held on October 6, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to approve as printed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

2. Regular Council meeting held on October 6, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to approve as printed with appropriate corrections.

Mr. Troyer reiterated to the clerk the only changes would be deleting Mayor and inserting Meiring Borchers.

The clerk concurred and commented pages three (3), five (5) and ten (10).

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Orcutt, Schmuck, Scott, Salvatore, Poindexter, Troyer

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Chairwoman, Schmuck

Mrs. Schmuck reported the Aviation & Environmental committee has no legislation on tonight's agenda and nothing to report.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported the Finance committee has one item on tonight's agenda. The board of control met earlier today, masks and social distancing in effect, and approved 15 items on the agenda. The top three items were \$15,000.00 to Westview Concrete Corporation for various sewer, street and water break repairs; \$13,106.00 for engineering work through August, 2020 for Elmdale drainage improvements, CSX Ditch Cleaning and Municipal Campus lot split and consolidation and the third largest was in the amount of \$42,110.00 for Zashin & Rich law firm for June through September negotiations.

Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the legislative committee has nothing on tonight's agenda and nothing to report.

Reports of Standing committees: cont.Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the Recreation committee has one item in committee. The Recreation commission met on October 22nd and discussed Trick or Treat Street that was held on Halloween Saturday and being an absolute success; non-stop vehicles for the entire event. Thank you to everyone who participated and the recreation staff for all their hard work. The line was all the way down Holland Road and moved very orderly and efficiently making for a lot of happy children. Basketball and Cheerleading signups have been extended to Saturday, November 7th. The next recreation committee meeting is scheduled for November 19th.

Planning Committee - Chairman, Orcutt

Mr. Orcutt reported the Planning commission has nothing on tonight's agenda and have not met since last report.

Safety Committee - Chairman Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported the Safety committee has not had legislation put in committee and commented the Halloween event was great and thanked everyone for being able to bring children out safely for a normal trick or treat that very well on my street. For Council's information I have requested a resolution drafted for an investigation of the Board of Elections (BOE) to find out what went wrong at the recreation center on November 3rd. Why did the BOE think of putting nine (9) precincts at one polling location and using half personnel for checking in people. Not sure who made that decision but not fair to residents who stood in line on the average of two hours.

Service Committee - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported the Service committee does not have legislation on tonight's agenda and has no report.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the Board of Zoning met on November 2nd and approved a variance at 15325 Holland Road for a fence removal. The board also pulled a tabled item request from two months for Express Vehicle Shipping on Hummel Road that the board expired. The first time the company appeared before the board the request was tabled and currently didn't want to come back before the board. Mr. Mencini concurred with Mr. Troyer with the election is there were three (3) wards voting at the recreation center building; wasn't with the poll workers did a pretty good job with keeping the line moving.

Mr. Troyer - Point of clarification.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer - I was not putting on poll workers not doing their jobs it was from someone Downtown not doing their job.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**Southwest General Health Center - Trustee, Orcutt**

Mr. Orcutt reported the health center continues to improve on patient experience and in effort to raise patient experience the health center has begun quarterly patient experience forms. The intent is to meet with members of the leadership team to review patient experience in their areas and identify actions to be implemented for improvement. There is new equipment purchased to provide a safer environment for patient and visitors at the emergency department waiting area that will be received and installed very quickly. Overall, employee retention at the hospital is better than 90% and members returning to LifeWorks have stabilized at over 65%.

Berea Board of Education Representative, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported Family First Night will November 9th which is a night where there are no activities for any employees, students and teachers; this is a night that the schools would like to everyone to spend time with family. Will give teachers, building administration up to the janitors, students, parents and grandparents for doing a good job through all of this. There was concern of going back to remote learning but as of now that decision has not been made; still on two days a week in-school learning. The Berea City Schools had a recent audit that was done by the recommendation of the district, but fortunately, the district is already is doing external items asked to do. Some of those evaluated were leadership, culture, curriculum teaching, learning and other types of activities, currently the district doing all of these items is ahead of the game with the 22 recommendations being done.

Technology and Innovation Council Representative - Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the Technology committee has not met since last report. Would like to inform Council that the Technology & Innovative committee has been featured in the November issue of the Municipal magazine, which is a publication delivered to many cities and businesses across the county. The article highlights the three committee members and explains how the committee was formed and continues with some of the current endeavors the committee is tasked with. This is a good highlight of Brook Park and can provide the link to anyone interested in reading the article. The next tech meeting will supposedly be held on November 18th.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:****REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Gammella concurred with the comments of the line being atrocious for voting at the recreation center. There were many calls to the BOE from myself, Council President Vecchio, Mr. Elliott and D'Amico as well as some Councilmembers. I think it was a little undermanned and in the BOE defense the

Reports and Communications from the Mayor: cont.

City of Brook Park had 8,000 residents vote in the community, that was unprecedented and huge turnout. The BOE could have been better manned and will be discussing that with BOE representatives. The poll workers did a great job staying open after 7:30 p.m. to accommodate all voters. Very proud of residents due to no instances or problems with everyone being very cordial during the long wait. Part of the problem is that the BOE closed the Ruple Road fire station due to the COVID-19 situation and firefighters being in close proximity. The only other available voting location was the UAW Hall and would like to see another voting location opened in the city to accommodate the far east end as well. As all of have seen the Coronavirus is spiking again and seems to instead of getting better, getting worse but will continue to batten down to do the best that can be done. Mayor Gammella continued Halloween went off without a hitch with no problems or issues and received good responses from the residents. Also, the Halloween Trick or Treat Street at the Recreation center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. went fabulous and will echo statements the recreation center staff did a terrific job along with all Councilmembers being there making a great difference.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini agreed with the comment of the voters being fantastic during the recent election. Is there any word on the Brook Park Memorial?

Mayor Gammella responded Service Director Garner was at Brook Park Memorial looking over the heating and cooling operations and the school is scheduled to become city property on December 1, 2020.

Mr. Mencini continued with the rain of three weeks ago and city personnel asking for the names and addresses of people calling for flooding issues, was a good response received?

Mayor Gammella responded there were some responses and will follow-up on all of them. Again, it's not a flooding issue for the entire city there are problems in certain areas that will be addressed; with the looking of a retention basin and things of that nature.

Mr. Vecchio asked if anything has been done with the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for the natatorium roof?

Mayor Gammella responded not yet but will be advertising very shortly.

Mr. Vecchio asked is that something anticipated by the end of 2020?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, most definitely by the end of the year, no question about it.

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

Mr. Cingle reported October monthly reports will be distributed within the next few days. The finance department staff is working on two (2) pieces of legislation; the 2020 final appropriations and the 2021 temporary appropriations.

Law Director Horvath

Mrs. Horvath stated the law department has no report.

Engineer Piatak

Mr. Piatak reported the draft copy of the Wedo/Wengler basin study was placed on my desk this afternoon. Once reviewed this week will be hopefully given to the Mayor's office sometime next week.

Service Director Garner

Mr. Garner reported the next bulk pickup will be starting the week of November 9th on regular rubbish days, with the exception of Wednesday being a city holiday for Veteran's Day; rubbish pickup will be delayed one day. Wednesday's pickup will be Thursday, Thursday will be Friday and Friday will be picked up on Saturday, both rubbish and bulk.

Recreation Director Elliott

Mr. Elliott thanked Mayor, Council, directors, police, fire and the Brook Park Elementary PTA for participating in the recent Trick or Treat Street event beginning with Friday evening's drive-in movie. The month of October was a good month for memberships.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Elliott, Halloween was very good with what you and the administration put together and think people just liked being out and good to see people dressed up. My question to you is are the memberships increasing each month since reopening?

Mr. Elliott respond since reopening on June 22nd, each month, especially September and October were very noticeable. Following all the COVID-19 protocols the center has been able to have some programs i.e. volleyball and upcoming basketball.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Cingle has any work been done with the 2021 budget.

Mr. Cingle responded the department has started projecting income tax receipts for 2021 and are currently working through the union negotiations and received the renewal for health care to start working on the expenditure portion of the budget.

Mr. Mencini asked Mrs. Horvath seeing Assistant Law Director Sackett in the Council Chambers how is Mayor's Court progressing?

Mrs. Horvath responded yes, not only does Mr. Sackett make calls with regards to

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

Mayor's Court but also uses the same method as the city prosecutor for Berea Municipal Court. Trying to get through as many cases as possible telephonically but there are a few that have to appear in person. When it looks that COVID-19 is surging again the Mayor's Court wants to keep this process up. Mr. Sackett, Clerk of Courts and both city magistrates have done a wonderful job; the process will continue until Mayor's Court can go back to normal.

Mr. Mencini concurred that Mr. Sackett does a good job as well as Debbie and Eileen.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Garner thank the service crews from both Council and the community for the great job. Also, how to get the geese out of Kennedy Park.

Mr. Garner responded will let the crews know and the geese are for another day.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mr. Cingle with trying to finalize the budget this year and preliminary for 2021. Can you provide to Council a breakdown of monthly overtime for each department for 2020.

Mr. Cingle concurred.

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

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the lowest and/or best bidder for repair and recondition of the city's water park and declaring an emergency. Introduced by Mayor Gammella. Placed in recreation committee.

Mr. Troyer - Point of clarification.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer - you mean assigned to.

Mr. Vecchio - assigned to is fine, placed in same difference but yes.

A Resolution supporting the Cooper Foundation and declaring an emergency. Introduced by Councilman Poindexter, C/W and Mayor Gammella. Placed in recreation committee.

Mr. Poindexter requested both pieces of legislation pulled out of committee.

Other communications, petitions and verbal approval: Introduction of New Legislation: cont.

Mr. Troyer commented the two pieces of legislation were assigned to committee so they are not in committee, the idea is to introduce them now and place under letter M, on the agenda.

Mr. Vecchio commented I cannot place the pieces of legislation anywhere; Council has to place them. I can introduce them.

Mr. Troyer interjected okay, that's what I'm saying; that's why I wanted you to say assigned to committee because placed in committee means they have to pulled out of the committees.

Mr. Vecchio commented think it's just semantics if Mr. Poindexter being the chairman of the committee wants to pull the legislation out of committee and move them. It's a simple vote with Mr. Poindexter pulling those two items out of committee with Council votes.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Schmuck, to pull the two recreation items out of committee and place under letter M.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Poindexter, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt Mencini, Salvatore

NAYS: Troyer. The motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:****INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: FIRST READING:**

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11171-2020, PROVIDING FOR A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to suspend.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Poindexter, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Mencini, Salvatore

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

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore

NAYS: None. Ordinance No. 11171-2020, has passed under Suspension of the rules. Adopted.

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions: First Reading: cont.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 11172-2020, PROVIDING FOR A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to suspend.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Poindexter, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Mencini, Salvatore

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore

NAYS: None. Ordinance No. 11172-2020, has passed under Suspension of the Rules. Adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 20-2020, SUPPORTING THE COOPER FOUNDATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Poindexter, C/W and Mayor Gammella

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to suspend.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Poindexter, Salvatore, Troyer, Orcutt, Schmuck, Scott

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Poindexter, Orcutt, Schmuck, Scott, Salvatore, Mencini, Troyer

NAYS: None. Resolution NO. 20-2020, has passed under Suspension of the rules. Adopted.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Mr. Vecchio thanked everyone for coming out to vote, probably a historic turnout for this city.

Mr. Poindexter commented everywhere.

Mr. Vecchio continued looking at the numbers it was an unbelievable turnout for a presidential election and Issue 70, library tax issue, passed in the city by 700 votes that speaks volumes.

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.

2,877 words

