

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

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, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE

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

Councilwoman Schmuck was properly excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on November 17, 2020.

Note: Moved by **motion** from the January 5, 2021 Council agenda for proper corrections.

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

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

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

Mass Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Mencini, to approve meeting minutes two through nine as printed.

2. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on December 15, 2020.
3. Regular Council meeting minutes held on December 15, 2020.
4. Special Caucus meeting minutes held on December 21, 2020.
5. Special Council meeting minutes held on December 21, 2020.
6. Special Council meeting minutes held on December 22, 2020.
7. Special Council meeting minutes held on December 23, 2020.
8. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on January 5, 2021.
9. Regular Council meeting minutes held on January 5, 2021.

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

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Co-Chairman, Poindexter.

Mr. Poindexter reported the Aviation & Environmental committee has nothing on tonight's agenda and there is no report.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported the Finance committee has two items on tonight's agenda. The Board of Control met earlier today social distance and wearing of masks approving 24 items. The three largest being were James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc. audit services for the fiscal period ending 12/31/20 payment in the amount of \$27, 492.00, Division of Water 2021 annual fee for water for the fire hydrants payment \$29,773.44 and combined payment for Kargos Companies, Inc. for the Sheldon

Reports of Standing committees:Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott.

Road resurfacing project dated 11/23/20 in the amount of \$19,070.53 and also for the Sheldon Road resurfacing projected final billing payment of \$28,887.83.

Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini stated the legislative committee has nothing on tonight's agenda and there are five pieces of legislation in committee; if anything needs to be pulled out please contact me.

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported this past Saturday the recreation center was able to livestream basketball games held on Court Two that were streamed on the Facebook page only, soft opening. This Saturday and the rest of the season all games on all three courts will be livestreamed on the City of Brook Park recreation page www.cityofbrookpark.com click on recreation tab to find link for livestream. The recreation commission meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21st.

Planning Committee - Chairman, Orcutt

Mr. Orcutt reported the Planning commission has not on tonight's agenda and has not met since last report.

Safety Committee - Chairman Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported nothing has changed since last Council meeting, the safety committee has no report this evening.

Service Committee - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported the service committee has one item on tonight's agenda, housecleaning item, disposing of a city truck deemed unsafe.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the Board of Zoning has not had a meeting since December, 2020; the next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2021 if there is to be one.

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

Mr. Orcutt reported the Ohio COVID-19 vaccination program 1A is underway focusing on reaching critical groups who must choose to be vaccinated. Those are health care workers & personnel routinely involved in care of COVID-19 patients; EMS responders; residents & staff in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; patients & staff at psychiatric hospitals, people with developmental disabilities and mental health disorders and residents and staff that run homes through the Ohio Veterans. The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine for people in phase one 1A is moving along at the hospital. Phase 1B for the COVID-19 vaccine clinics will begin Thursday, January 21st. On Monday, January 18th, at 11:00 a.m. residents had opportunity to begin scheduling to start receiving the vaccine online at www.sw.enroll.com. Phase 1B specifically includes the list of dates for people that choose to be vaccinated: Week of January 19th Ohioans 80 years of age and older; week of January 25th Ohioans 75 years of age and older; Week of February 1st Ohioans 70 years of age and older as well employees K-12 that wish to remain or

Reports of Special Committees:**Southwest General Health Center - Trustee, Orcutt. cont.**

return to in-person hybrid models. The week of February 8th Ohioans 65 years of age or older. If people meet the following criteria is met for phase one vaccination people can online at www.swgeneral.com click on COVID-19 tab to access the schedule; for people that have no access to the internet please call 440-816-5050.

Berea Board of Education Representative, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported there was no school on January 18th, Martin Luther King, Jr. day, very important date across the country with many events. After the Christmas break school began January 11th for grades 6th through 12th for students with last names of A-L, attending school Monday and Wednesday. Tuesdays and Thursdays are for students with last names of M-Z. January 12th pre-K to fifth grade students return to in-person schooling five days a week. How COVID-19 is being monitored throughout the school is that teachers, staff and students are required to complete a daily health assessment each morning, prior to reporting to the bus stop and/or school, anyone with any symptoms should not enter a bus or attend school. On Wednesday, January 27th the Greater Cleveland food bank mobile pantry will be at the Brook Park Library branch, first come-first serve as needed basis.

Technology and Innovation Council Representative - Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the technology committee met on January 13th, all members in attendance as well as representatives from the Berea City school district. The committee let the Berea school representatives that proposals are being put together for WIFI for the municipal campus and wanted to see if the Berea city schools wanted to add or possibly form a partnership; so when the proposal is brought forward to Council all scenarios will be in place. WIFI discussions are ongoing and expect that Council will see the two simultaneously in the near future, technology committee is working hard gathering all the information. The recreation center livestream of basketball games had the soft opening this past Saturday and Saturday, January 22nd, should be the grand opening with all courts and games being livestreamed. Would like to thank all the members of the technology committee for their hard work in assisting the recreation department and administration bringing this to the city.

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

Mayor Gammella reported COVID-19 continues to hang with the city with no end in sight. Wednesday, January 20th I along with other Mayors will be having a conference call with Governor DeWine to discuss vaccines, will give report next meeting, very important to get this vaccination and wearing of the masks. Want to thank all city employees for the wonderful job through this pandemic situation.

Reports and communications from the Mayor: cont.

The city has had to juggle a lot of things, do a lot of different things and go on a lot of different programs. Currently the city is on the Shared Work Ohio Program which will be a substantial savings to the city. This is a volunteer program with the city employees choosing to do this or not and want to thank the city employees taking this; safety forces were excluded from this program. On tonight's agenda there are two appointments to the Planning Commission for Brian Walsh and Tim Chornak.

Questions:

Mr. Troyer asked for an update on the pool roof and walls situation; Wedo Park and would like to discuss the Roads Program?

Mayor Gammella responded there is a meeting tomorrow for the pool roof and walls and will be brought forward to Council. The Wedo basin and other basins the city is considering for flooding is an ongoing discussion and will continue. Would meet anytime you come in along with other Members of Council and appreciate the dialogue.

Mr. Orcutt thanked Mayor Gammella for his report and also for the opportunity of meeting last week to discuss specifically of the Wedo basin and roads for Ward Three. Certainly appreciate that meeting because there is a lot of attention needed with roads in that ward. With the Wedo retention basin feasibility study presented by the city engineer to Ward Councilmembers; were you able to complete meeting with meet with the rest of Council on the retention basin?

Mayor Gammella responded yes and the Council President.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mayor Gammella with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and the safety forces and city employees who come in contact with the public, on a regular basis. Has there been any discussion or are any city employees on the list to get the vaccine?

Mayor Gammella responded some of the city's safety forces have already received the vaccine and that will continue. After meeting with the Governor tomorrow phonetically I will have a much clearer picture for everyone.

Mr. Mencini asked with the 49 employees taking furlough days if there is a major snowstorm or something else were to happen at somewhat of a major level. Would the city be caught low-staffed with that number?

Mayor Gammella responded no, we met with the unions and have a mechanism where to call people in for a snowstorm, union was in total agreement. Out of the service department 26 individuals took advantage of furlough days; there was a

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

total of 49 employees including recreation center, city hall and service personnel. The city is very vigilant about snowstorms and the union and employees understand and that's the reason for thanking employees at the very beginning, everyone has been cooperative through the whole venture of COVID-19. Much appreciated and this city has excellent employees from the top down.

Mr. Mencini commented wholeheartedly agree with your last comment, all employees are doing a great job. There have been many calls received about neighbors and so forth but one of things starting to stand out again is the speeding. Know the police have their hands full and doing a great job but don't see a lot of patrol cars except on maybe Snow Road and Brookpark Road, taking radar. Do see them out there but don't see them taking radar on some of the city's secondary streets i.e. Engle Road, Sylvia, Michael and Holland. Also, with the stop signs getting calls of UPS and FedEx trucks not stopping. Want to present this to you and let you know because I bring this up a lot. Don't want anyone to get a ticket but if they are speeding they are speeding.

Mayor Gammella asked Mr. Mencini to call him tomorrow to further discuss the speeding situation and will make sure the police are aware to get some special attention out there.

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

Mrs. Horvath reported the pending civil litigation has been sent to Council; looking at the list it is getting shorter which is a good thing starting out for 2021. There are five cases listed and will say only two of them are major. There is one case which is proof of claim in bankruptcy court that will wind its way through the bankruptcy system, will continue to keep Council advised. Expect the law department to have a very busy January, February and March.

Service Director Garner:

Mr. Garner reported last week concluded January's bulk pickup and netted about 55 tons of bulk rubbish.

Engineer Piatak

Mr. Piatak reported we currently working to close out some of the open contracts there are mainly being the Sheldon Road resurfacing project; Smith Road resurfacing project and Holland Road reconstruction project. Coordinating and communicating with contractors to get those invoices to the city to get those contracts closed out.

Finance Director Cingle

Mr. Cingle reported the finance department is continuing to work on the 2021 budget and will be forthcoming to Council in the near future. Also, the 2020 audit is beginning and as moving through the audit process will keep Council updated on

Reports and communications from departments, commissions and public officials:

Finance Director Cingle: cont.
any issues that should arise.

Questions:

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mrs. Horvath working on a proposed Charter amendment and would like to meet next week to help walk him through, it's in the preliminary stages and need guidance.

Mrs. Horvath responded Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Troyer asked Mrs. Horvath for an update on the West End Airport lawsuit issue? Also, a quick question on drone legislation, regulating drones in the city, few years ago that was put on the back burner. Any interest in revisiting that because would still like to get some drone legislation going in the city.

Mrs. Horvath responded currently don't believe there is anything occurring with regards to the lawsuit; hope to see some movement and think maybe February or March would be a good time to look and see if things can be moved a little bit. With regards to the Drones you are quite correct there have been a number of changes and certainly worth revisiting, give me a call to set up a time.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Piatak when can I get my copy of the feasibility study for Wedo Park?

Mr. Piatak responded it's my understanding those would be available to Council maybe yesterday.

Mayor Gammella interjected those will be delivered to the Council office tomorrow, due to being off on Monday.

Mr. Troyer continued to Mr. Piatak the city was thinking about putting in for a grant for Holland Road, mentioned in the past, that the city did get one for Smith Road. Can the city do anything with bike paths or bike path markings on this section to get a better grant, qualify better or more money? Again, it's always good to go after that extra money and my understanding is the monies may be bigger or better if the city does bike path markings, at least.

Mr. Piatak responded that's something to look into not aware of any grant programs. If you are aware of something may want to pass that along, I can certainly look into it. The city did the bike lane markings on Smith Road and that was required by NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency). The application or funding source the city was currently seeking money for the section

Questions to the directors: cont.

of Holland Road between Engle and Eastland Roads was for more maintenance type of work; there was no bike lane, no pavement marking type items that would be applicable for under that county maintenance type program, definitely something that can be looked into and if there is some availability of money to do something like that I would be in support.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Piatak understand you have nothing to do with the budget but there are a few roads that definitely need to be done; Delores Blvd., that goes through three wards, being one of them. The one time we visited this street you made a great assessment that it's what's on top and what's underneath that isn't good. To Mrs. Horvath have a few pieces of legislation I would like to present to you and one to finish working with you. To Mr. Garner with the furlough days within the city, crews are doing everything they can with what they have. The city won't get caught short, with the furlough days, if there is a major storm, will the city be okay?

Mr. Garner responded yes, would say so, all the resources will be put out there with cooperation of the union members, the city should be fine.

Mr. Mencini commented from what I understand those numbers were pretty low last Friday, if there was a snowstorm, and know that workers were called in; something the city needs to be very conscious about and know it's not easy at the service garage. To Mr. Cingle how soon do you think the budget will be coming forth?

Mr. Cingle responded within the next few weeks, will sit down with the Mayor and city engineer to review the roads, sewer issues in the community and all the other projects that everyone is aware of i.e. natatorium roof to the municipal campus. There are a lot of things to pull together that we should be able to do within the next few weeks.

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 Teamsters, Union Local 436 and declaring an emergency. Introduced by Mayor Gammella. Placed in Finance committee.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Planning Commission appointment, Brian Walsh, per Mayor Gammella.
2. Planning Commission appointment, Tim Chornak, per Mayor Gammella.

Mass Motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to approve both Brian Walsh and Tim Chornak to the Planning Commission.

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

NAYS: None. The appointments carried.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

Liz Sayers

23065 Cedar Point Road

Ms. Sayers questioned what happened to public records request that have been asking for one year and thanked the Mayor for the correspondence regarding the gazebo and everything being worked out there.

Mayor Gammella responded not certain what public records Ms. Sayers is asking for. There was a request about 30-days ago and to the best of my knowledge that was sent to her house. Will call Ms. Sayers tomorrow for follow-up?

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: FIRST READING:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11182-2021, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE FOR A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE LISTING, MARKETING AND SALE BY AN OHIO LICENSED COMMERCIAL BROKERAGE FOR LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND LOCATED ON CEDAR POINT ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

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

Mr. Troyer asked Mayor Gammella the reason for the rush?

Mayor Gammella responded Councilman, you were one of them that, definitely the biggest proponent, wanted to go with the multiple listing service and that's is the attempt to do here.

Mr. Troyer continued to clarify I wanted to do that for residential property; wasn't pushing that for commercial. The question is there any reason not to have at least two readings on this legislation, is there a reason this needs to be passed tonight?

Mayor Gammella responded would like for passage to get started, that's up to Council to go three readings.

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

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Scott, to suspend.

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

NAYS: Troyer. Suspension failed with a vote of 5-1.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 11183-2021, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE FOR A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE LISTING, MARKETING AND SALE BY AN OHIO LICENSED COMMERCIAL BROKERAGE FOR LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF BROOK PARK AND LOCATED ON AEROSPACE PARKWAY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

Mr. Vecchio stated Ordinance No. 11183-2021, has had its first reading.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 11184-2021, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO DISPOSE OF AN OBSOLETE CITY TRUCK THAT IS UNSAFE AND NO LONGER ROAD WORTHY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

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

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

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

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

NAYS: None. Ordinance No. 11184-2021, 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 Mr. Orcutt, to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*
Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *February 2, 2021*

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

3,505 words