

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 8:00 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 Law Director Horvath, Engineer Piatak, Finance Director Cingle, Mayor Gammella and Recreation Director Elliott (8:03 p.m.).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. CAUCUS PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2021.

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

Mr. Salvatore commented the minutes are just a synopsis as to who is writing them, their interpretation. You may not agree with the way it was written or the way it came out this is just a synopsis.

Mr. Troyer - Point of clarification.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer - I would slightly like to disagree with that the jist of it the conversation and that yes it's not that big of a deal. On these minutes we're memorializing our votes. It's saying we agree that's how that vote went so it's very important. These are legal matters we're dealing with at Council meetings with our votes. What these minutes do is memorialize saying okay this is what was taken and not it's saying this is what the minutes were. It's very important to get the motion right and to get the vote right it's critically important to do that. A recording isn't going to do it in a court of law the minutes is what would go to a court of law, so it is important as far as that part. Mr. Salvatore is absolutely right in what the basic discussion is not that big of a deal if there's a typo or something like that but the motion is vitally important.

Mr. Mencini - in a court of law a recording would be very important, recordings are played in a court of law, theoretically, hopefully it wouldn't get that far. Our vote if the vote is wrong like Mrs. Horvath said at the Caucus meeting we'll make that call and get it corrected before we bring this out. A court of law will take a recording.

Mr. Salvatore - I was just referring to a synopsis and not the vote. If the vote is wrong, we need to make an amendment and that's why we go through that.

Mr. Troyer - Point of clarification.

Approval of minutes of preceding meetings: cont.

Mr. Vecchio - we can beleaguer this there's no sense.

Mr. Troyer - would like to go to the law director.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Scott, Poindexter, Salvatore, Mencini, Orcutt, Schmuck,
NAYS: Troyer. The motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

2. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2021.

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

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Scott, Schmuck, Orcutt, Poindexter, Salvatore
NAYS: Troyer. The motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Chairwoman, Schmuck

Mrs. Schmuck stated Aviation & Environmental has no legislation or no report.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported the Finance committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. The Board of Control met earlier today with masks and proper distancing, with the three largest items approved were CDW Government, Inc. to replace city WIFI network and firewall license renewal for five years for an increase of \$2,000 for a total of \$14, 832.66; second was Gledhill Road Machinery company to replace snow plow blades for \$15,175.59 and Southwest Enforcement & Emergency Response Team for 2021 for \$22,500.00.

Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported in committee there are three ordinances and two resolutions, on the March 23rd Caucus agenda there are four items carried over from March 9th meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the Parks & Recreation committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. Recreation report baseball & softball signups begin February 17th until the end of March. Basketball cheer-off is this Sunday, February 21st, at 12:00 p.m. parents only in attendance, cheer-off will be livestreamed for home viewers. The front desk renovations at the entrance are underway and are near completion with a few touch-up items left, received pretty good reception and opens up the front area quite a bit, looks nice.

Planning Committee - Chairman, Orcutt

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

Safety Committee - Chairman Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported nothing has been placed in committee and there is nothing on tonight's agenda from the safety committee. Would like to reiterate a previous statement be careful around plow trucks it's very important any vehicle a semi, plow, whatever has flashers yellow lights or otherwise and in the road. They have

Reports of special committees:**Safety Committee, Chairman, Troyer: cont.**

control of the road until wave you by or move off the road; don't try to squeeze between the bumper and curb damage will be your fault. Also there have been questions asked about the blue lights and there was a person in my neighborhood, Sylvia and Holland, that wanted to support the police and it's well known the blue lights are for police and/or autism. This person decided to support the police and went door to door with selling blue bulbs, that's why there are so many blue lights at Sylvia and Holland. There are other reasons but that's why there are so many blue lights and it's catching on throughout the city, also supports autism. Want to give kudos to the police department for how they handled an incident at Marc's and don't have proper paperwork and it's my belief and think it's right that no one was arrested for not wearing a mask. What happened to what the reporter said, Channel 8 Matt Wright, almost as bad as Orlousky. The police didn't arrest anyone for not wearing a mask it was for trespassing and then it snowballed into other things. City officers don't go around arresting people for not wearing a mask that's not what happened, just wanted to straighten that out.

Service Committee - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported the Service committee has no legislation on tonight's agenda. Quick announcements are to remind residents about the parking ban with winter storms and cars parked on the street make it difficult snow plow drivers to navigate around the cars leaving a lot of snow on both sides of the car. Another announcement is that bulk pickup is scheduled the week of March 8th on regular scheduled pickup day, all bulk only put out on day of collection. Great job to the service workers a dry run for the storm coming at the end of the week.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the Board of Zoning Appeals has not had a meeting and there is no meeting for March 1st.

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

Mr. Orcutt reported the next scheduled meeting will be held on March 3rd. One reminder for the COVID-19 vaccination additional information can be provided by calling Southwest General Health Center at 440-816-5050. For COVID-19 vaccination locations in Ohio people can visit the Ohio Department of Health website at vaccine.coronavirus.oh.gov.

Berea Board of Education Representative, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported there was no school yesterday, February 15th, honoring Presidents' Day. Students are back in the schools so far, so good. Today pre-school and kindergarten registrations opened for next year. On February 24th Parent-Teacher conferences will be held for middle school; February 25th will high school and elementary conferences. On February 12th there was no school so the staff could get the vaccine, if they so choose. On February 18th, Superintendent Wheeler will be hosting the Coffee and Conversation at 2:00 p.m. to join go to the

Reports of special committees:

Berea Board of Education - Representative, Mencini: cont.

Berea City School website, very interesting discussions take place.

Technology and Innovation Council Representative - Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the technology and innovation committee met on February 10th. To Council last year about this time several emails were received about 5G technology and the committee did some research and last meeting approved a document to present to Council, in the near future, with some facts about 5G. The technology committee is waiting final details from the Brook Park library for WIFI capabilities for the municipal campus. If that information is received in a timely fashion a second meeting will be held on February 24th to finalize the presentation to Council. Two scenarios are being used one being WOW and the second being a partnership with the library to cover the campus.

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

Mayor Gammella reported the budget will be provided to Council by the end of next week. With the central park the city has the \$100,000.00 state grant for the amphitheater and have applied for another grant with Council's approval in the amount of \$50,000.00 for outside gym equipment. The city received a grant from NOPEC for LED lighting and also applied for another tree grant, for more trees. To Mr. Poindexter's point with the WIFI the city is exploring that and will not be as costly as first thought and think the city will have a good agreement but before doing anything will come before Council. Mayor Gammella thanked service department crews for the outstanding job during the recent snow and windstorm.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini stated during the recent snowstorm there was a snow ban in effect.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Mencini continued numerous calls were received especially pertaining to Agnes with cars parked overnight and all day today. How does the city working the issue of having a snow ban in effect? At 3:00 a.m. are cars allowed to park on the street?

Mayor Gammella responded absolutely not and should be ticketed and if cars are parked for too long should be towed.

Mr. Mencini asked if the tax window is open?

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

Mayor Gammella responded yes.

Mr. Mencini continued how are contract discussions going with the fire and service departments?

Mayor Gammella responded the city is in mediation with the firefighters and would like to come to an agreement with both the firefighters and service workers. These people work really hard for the city especially with the COVID-19. This city will work with these people because they work with us and this city is very fortunate to have very good people working for this city and also care about this city.

Mr. Mencini and Council concur with the great employees working for the city.

Mr. Orcutt asked Mayor Gammella with the feasibility study for the March 9th Caucus agenda will the means for funding be provided to Council for that project?

Mayor Gammella responded no, not sure how much the funding will be to date.

Mr. Orcutt continued believe the feasibility study has those numbers included.

Mayor Gammella responded it does but am looking at more than the feasibility study. It's going to take a series of these items to actually do the project and obviously can't be done all at once. Think the best way to go and will discuss this at another time but don't think we will see interest rates lower and may be better off to bond that project. Will talk with the finance director more at length about this but probably won't have a price at that point. There is an idea but will have to see how many of these have to be built because one is not the answer; a series of them will be needed as well as the locations.

Mr. Orcutt continued with prior experience, do understand they take some planning to get them done and adjacent neighboring cities have taken some action on this already. The reason I'm bringing this up is yesterday was the nine-month anniversary of May 15th when a very bad storm hit Ward 3. There was a lot of devastation done to some of the basements and still get from my constituents calling consistently wondering when the city is going to act on this. Nothing against any past administrations or Councils and know things were done in the past but want to know at the presentation if discussion can take place on the plan. Know there are two retention basins in the feasibility study and if the plan is to do one now and one later wondering if the funding resources could be provided.

Mayor Gammella responded before any funding sources are provided we have to make sure the city is getting their bang for the buck and have to make sure everyone is covered to the best the city can. Concur with you of wanting to take

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

care of the people and will do that and have already taken action by getting the studies done and things of that nature. When talking about the amount of money the city is going to spend on this have to make sure it's right.

Mr. Orcutt continued and do support the fact of \$33,000.00 being spent to have the study done.

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

Mr. Cingle reported as the Mayor stated with the 2021 budget there is some forthcoming information the city is waiting on from the Berea City Schools district; regarding the city's purchase of the two school buildings. Also will be meeting with the Mayor and his assistant to finalize the capital improvement budget. My preference is to have the budget in front of Council by the end of next week.

Engineer Piatak

Mr. Piatak stated no report this evening.

Law Director Horvath

Mrs. Horvath stated no report this evening.

Recreation Director Elliott

Mr. Elliott reported last summer baseball and softball was not played due to COVID-19. Recently a lot of work has gone into that program to make that happen this year and recently met with 12 surrounding cities. Between everyone a general rules and guidelines were constructed for a safe successful summer. Internally, our staff hopes to make this an enjoyable summer and is currently putting together a spring-summer activity program involving the very young to the golden agers.

Service Director Garner:

Mr. Garner reported last week's bulk pickup consisted of 45 tons of bulk items.

Questions:

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Garner this has happened a couple of times this year and wondering if can be alleviated if there is an issue. Streets in my neighborhood Hio, Scott and Emory and a little issue with Sandhurst. Hio, Scott and Emory are not done with the rest of the neighborhood. At 6:45 a.m. this morning coming back from plowing city-wide it seemed like Dale, Grosse and Kalvin were nicely plowed, running water in some areas. Hio, Scott and Emory were not done, probably done the night before, but especially the cul-de-sac on Hio, happened before, they were plowed across the entrance to the street but not a truck around to finish the job. Is there a reason for that and can that be alleviated? Know the crews do a lot of work and commend them in getting the streets plowed but is there some type of situation there that can be fixed, where those streets can get done in a timelier manner.

Questions to the directors: cont.

Mr. Garner responded I can't tell you in that timeframe that is our shift change, night drivers are coming in and day drivers are going out. That truck is being used by multiple drivers get fueled up, blade changes and checks; that's the only reason that I am aware of.

Mr. Troyer continued is there any way to alieve that because what it does is put a mound of snow across the entrance to the street and the cul-de-sac was never done the first time, had two pushes back to the tree lawn. Going through there at 6:45 a.m. today some people had plowed their driveway and over to the center of the cul-de-sac to be able to get out of their driveway.

Mr. Garner reiterated those are shift change times and can't do too much about that. Crews will get out there right away and finish routes as they can.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mr. Garner while out snow-blowing throughout the county this morning and driving in other counties will say this Brook Park's service department, snow removal crews are superior to everybody around us. Was out to Erie county this morning and can say our crews definitely shine compared to everyone else and want to thank everyone for that.

Mr. Garner thanked Mr. Vecchio and stated will pass that credit to the city mechanics, vehicles and the drivers as stated they put in a tremendous amount of time.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Elliott have three teams and heading into the sixth week of basketball and as different as it is the conditions the staff is working and teams are playing under think basketball overall is going very well.

Mr. Elliott responded no, agree greatly and speaking to a number of people weekly, temperatures are taken when coming in and the number of people are limited for coming to the games and that's why the livestreaming has been so welcome. People coming in have been very grateful and it's been a very good success and compliment to the coaches, parents, players and really happy about it.

Mr. Mencini commented really like the front desk makes a big difference and looks good.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Garner how many workers are on nights?

Mr. Garner responded regularly scheduled will be three on two days and six on five days.

Mr. Mencini commented when working in service and know numbers are low, there

Questions to the directors: cont.

would be three on the mains, secondary's and one in each section that would be four to five. So there are six that are generally doing what 12 plows would do.

Mr. Garner responded there are eight plows and yes in the late 90's -early 2000's there were 14 workers on each shift, manpower was not a factor in this. Last night thinks there were a few more workers in than the regularly scheduled workers, there were some overtime workers in.

Mr. Mencini commented last night it was wet underneath and with the heavy snow underneath was still hard to get up due to the wet ground.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Cingle looking at the January month-end reports and comparing to last year looks similar. There were a few differences but so far looking pretty good.

Mr. Cingle responded we'll get into this more during budget discussions. Don't like when it snows on holidays or Sundays and will talk more during budget discussions and also income tax projections for this year, that concerns me a little right now.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:

Miscellaneous Business:

1. RAFFIRMATION OF CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE ON ORDINANCE NO. 11186-2021 THAT APPEARED ON THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 DUE TO THE MEETING BEING AIRED ON FACEBOOK BUT NO LIVESTREAMED TO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to approve.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Scott, Salvatore, Poindexter, Mencini, Troyer, Orcutt, Schmuck
NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Troyer stated during roll call I affirm the piece Council actually passed.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

Liz Sayers

23065 Cedar Point Road

Ms. Sayers expressed concerns with not receiving requested public records regarding the recreation center.

Motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to address the audience.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Gammella stated to Ms. Sayers discussed this with Recreation Director Elliott earlier and I will be personally delivering to Ms. Sayers on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Vecchio commented to Ms. Sayers the Mayor will personal deliver something on Friday afternoon, March 19th.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Troyer responded to Ms. Sayers feel for you and nice hearing from you not seeing you in a while. I've had many, many public records request and probably received 20% of them if lucky, understand your concern.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to go back to the regular order of business.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: FIRST READING:

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. Salvatore, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED 
Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED March 16, 2021

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

3,543 words

