

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 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, SCHMUCK, ORCUTT, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. Special Council meeting minutes held on February 4, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to amend page 2, first motion, Mr. Troyer voted yes on amendment.

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

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Mencini, to approve as amended.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Chairwoman, Schmuck

Mrs. Schmuck reported the committee has no legislation or no report.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported Finance committee has one item tonight's agenda, moved from the Caucus Prior to meeting. The Board of Control met earlier approving 12 items with the three largest being Government Connection Inc. for government Microsoft software in the amount of \$10,392.27; Meehan's Lawn Service for 2021 citywide fertilization program in the amount of \$13,064.00 and the third largest was Ports Petroleum Company, Inc. for gas and diesel fuel in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the legislative committee has three ordinances and two resolutions in the committee.

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the recreation committee has nothing on tonight's agenda and two items in committee that will remain until returning to Council chambers. Basketball season is winding down with tournaments beginning this weekend and ends next Saturday. Good luck to all Brook Park teams. Baseball and softball signups are ongoing until end of March.

Planning Committee - Chairman, Orcutt

Mr. Orcutt reported Planning committee has nothing on tonight's agenda, nothing in committee and hasn't met since last report. A special meeting is scheduled for March 18th.

Reports of standing committees: cont.Safety Committee - Chairman Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported the safety committee nothing has been put in committee and have nothing on tonight's agenda. Looking forward to the new speed-signs hopefully after the budget. To have those speed-signs flashing when someone is speeding instead of that machine that is hauled around. Hoping to get the legislation for Signal Service Company or the bids and information to get something passed to have the traffic signals maintained when needed.

Service Committee - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported the Service committee does not have legislation on tonight's agenda.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the Board of Zoning did not have a meeting on February 1st and the next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd.

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

Mr. Orcutt reported the next Southwest board meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. A few updates for the COVID-19 vaccination Governor DeWine outlined yesterday the individuals included in Phase 1C and Phase 2 that goes into effect on March 4th. The medical groups included in 1C and 2 are type one diabetes, pregnant women, bone marrow transplant recipients and ALS (known as Lou Gehrig's disease). Occupations that are included in this group are the Ohio Professionals Registered employees working in open childcare or pre-kindergarten programs; Ohio Department of Job & Family services or county job & family services agencies. All funeral service workers are included along with law enforcement and correction officers. The Phase 2 will open vaccinations up for Ohioans ages 60 and older, currently Southwest only received limited amounts of COVID-19 vaccines. The link to add your name to the waiting list can be accessed via Southwest General's healthy life patient portal. To find additional vaccination providers in Ohio who may have open appointments for vaccinations scheduling visit the Ohio Department of Health's website at vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. For those without internet access can call 211.

Berea Board of Education Representative, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported per Governor DeWine all public schools must submit a report detailing how they will address learning shortfalls which according to Superintendent Wheeler surprised a lot school districts, coming out of the blue. The school district has been ahead of this with Superintendent Wheeler creating a task force in the district to address learning loss all the schools. Superintendent Wheeler has an executive team that will address and deal with emotional, social and all kinds of things; this program will be under review. With COVID-19 going on for a year this is very stressful time on the students, teachers and everybody. The January cash balance is \$1,076,000.00 that is more than last January; the January balances is \$2,613,000.00 which is a forecasted amount; revenue is down

Reports of Special Committees:

Berea Board of Education Representative - Mencini: cont.

\$124,000.00. The district was hybrid at the beginning of the year and these balances are going to be shaky for a while until getting back to everyone in school.

Technology and Innovation Council Representative - Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the technology committee met on February 24th with the city's IT consultant, Zack Ellis, in attendance. There was discussion of options for the city campus WIFI and Mr. Ellis thinks the WIFI can be expanded used at the recreation center to the city campus and is looking at all the parameters around that. There was discussion of the technology audit and Mr. Ellis will be working with the technology committee gather necessary information. To Council if you have any questions, ideas or would like to attend a meeting contact me, committee is open and everyone is welcome.

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

Mayor Gammella reported on March 9th the engineer will be presenting a power point presentation via Zoom of the feasibility study and detention basins to ease the flooding issues. Recently met with Board of Elections representatives about the November, 2020 general election and currently the board is looking at it and seems there will be four separate polling places in the city; one for each ward. Even though the 2020 general election was a great turnout this time the board will be better prepared. There are two electronic speed signs recently put up on Michael Drive & Fry Road were paid for by a NOPEC grant. The city will also have flashing stop signs at areas where motorists roll through that are also paid for by a NOPEC grant.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini thanked Mayor Gammella for the assistance given from the administration in a timely fashion of residential problems, concerns or issues in Ward 2. With the COVID-19 will there be any vaccinations done in Brook Park and there is a post on Facebook that one of us could help with the vaccine. Is the city moving anywhere in that direction?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, about two weeks ago I was on a conference call with Governor DeWine's and informed him that Brook Park has two schools, Brook Park Memorial and Brookview, that could be used for the vaccine. The governor replied that they are leading to more open venues throughout the city i.e. fairgrounds. Also spoke with Southwest CEO, Bill Young, who stated that in the future that maybe a very well possibility.

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

Mr. Mencini continued with the upcoming March 9th meeting it would be nice to inform the residents in some way.

Mayor Gammella thanked Mr. Mencini for the comments of how well we work together and want to say this city has fabulous people working here in all departments; employees go above and beyond.

Mr. Mencini commented agreed.

Mr. Troyer stated appreciation in basically a year, after coming back from South Carolina last Christmas I mentioned those signs and thought were a good idea of them flashing when speeding and the way they work. Appreciate that happening and getting the grant in a year, that's pretty good to get a grant. Top streets in Ward One for street repair would be Sandhurst, Christene, Claudia, Stonecrest and Hio, know they won't all get done but did want to mention them, Sandhurst drives badly and is used by school buses and needs to get done. Also, a reminder of the trees on Cambridge Court.

Mayor Gammella thanked Mr. Troyer for the suggestion of the signs and most of Council has expressed street issues. We're doing everything we can and hopes everyone understands it's an extremely tight budget but think Council will be happy with it.

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

Mr. Cingle reported the 2021 budget there was a meeting this afternoon with city personnel to finalize the capital budget and the department is currently checking the math on the budget and barring any unforeseen changes Council should have the budget tomorrow.

Recreation Director Elliott

Mr. Elliott reported that all proper paperwork has been submitted to the State of Ohio Facilities Construction Commission regarding the \$100,000.00 state capital grant for the amphitheater. Early next week will be meeting with the finance and law director go over a few things. To bring everyone up to date baseball and softball registrations are going well and are showing that people want to return to normalcy, registrations are at approximately 70%. Any students or are a lifeguard and have certification can apply at the recreation center front desk. Anyone who is interested and needs to become certified suggest going on the Red Cross website and click on lifeguard training and certification link for locations and classes being offered during the month of March.

Service Director Garner

Mr. Garner reported bulk pickup is the week of March 8th on regular scheduled

Reports and communications from departments, commissions and other public officials:

Service Director Garner: cont.

rubbish day.

Law Director Horvath

Mrs. Horvath stated no report this evening.

Engineer Piatak

Mr. Piatak stated no report this evening.

Questions:

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Piatak at next week's flooding meeting will the public be able to see what is presented.

Mr. Piatak responded yes, will have a slideshow power point with most of the presentation focusing around the Wedo-Wengler study.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Elliott is high school baseball scheduled to play at Kennedy this year?

Mr. Elliott responded yes.

Mr. Poindexter continued do you know when the first game is?

Mr. Elliott responded they have not let us know that yet and expect something during the last week of March. Spoke with the school athletic director and building service director about some of the planning that was discussed last year. Recreation commissioner, Cyndi, Shick, recreation center staff and school staff will be meeting to discuss some plans and opening day celebrations.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Elliott that over 100 children have signed up for t-ball?

Mr. Elliott responded yes, as of this evening there are 105 and an adjustment was made in that program this year instead of ages three and four there will be ages four-five and five-six.

Mr. Mencini commented that things went very well with the basketball season. To Mr. Garner when is the rubbish and yard waste drop off opening at the service garage?

Mr. Garner responded the date for reopening is April 12th.

Mr. Mencini commented to Mr. Piatak will be calling to go over some economic, financial numbers and other things for the feasibility study.

Questions to the directors: cont.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Piatak with the feasibility study is this basically going to be you going over the booklet Council received, explaining the study and what came out of the study? Or more just a proposal of what the city could do or what the administration is planning on doing; or both?

Mr. Piatak responded the presentation will be primarily focused around the study and the results of the study.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Garner I've been looking for some information on the replacement of the police-fire department's water tank. Trying to find out how many gallons, BTU's and the model number.

Mr. Garner responded yes I can, hard numbers it's a 100-gallon commercial grade hot water tank.

Mr. Troyer asked Mrs. Horvath if there is anything new with the airport lawsuit?

Mrs. Horvath responded unfortunately no and encourage you to come see me so I can fill you in on further details; not that it would be anything happening but think it would be a good discussion with you being Ward 1 Councilperson.

Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Garner for the quick turnaround for the problem at Brookview and Parkman with the plows taking up the asphalt and putting in middle of Parkman; appreciate the quick cleanup with that safety issue.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL: (INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:****REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:**

Elizabeth Sayers

23065 Cedar Point Road

Mrs. Sayers thanked the Mayor for making sure paperwork was received for the public records requested. The letter dated February 21, 2021 with subject being public records request. The papers received were not about the subject matters asked for i.e. mold and asbestos.

Craig Cooper

Executive Director Cooper Foundation

13918 Franklyn Blvd.

Mr. Cooper thanked Council for passing Resolution No. 20-2020 on November 4, 2020 that helps get ADA (American Disability Act) playground equipment for

Remarks from the audience on any subject matter: cont.

special needs children in the city parks. The foundation has raised close to \$14,000.00 in past four month and have commercials running on social media platforms and YouTube; thanked Mr. Poindexter and Orcutt for donations. Mr. Cooper expressed extreme disappointment in the lack of response and action taken by the city's administration having no mention on the city's Facebook, no link on the city's website of the Cooper foundation donation page or no mention in the winter city newsletter in accordance with section 2 of the legislation. The Cooper foundation and members are extremely disappointed in the city's lack of effort and support on this project.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: FIRST READING:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 1-2021, ACCEPTING THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSING COUNCIL ON THE CITY OF BROOK PARK'S COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA (CRA) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

Legislation read in its entirety.

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

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

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

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

NAYS: None. Resolution No. 1-2021 has passed under suspension of the rules. Adopted.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Poindexter thanked the residents who called in and Mr. Cooper for the kind words was hoping to be an anonymous donor but if my name helps with donations to this wonderful cause willing to do that.

Mr. Vecchio asked Mr. Elliott to address the issue with Ms. Sayers.

Mr. Elliott responded first of all when Ms. Sayers requested the last 20 years' public record of documents and inspections from for safety occupancy of the center. Speaking with the law director who felt it would be fair to go back five years which

Audience address:

is what I did and in fact there were four out of the last five year reports; one year due to the transition of a new alarm system. The other request Ms. Sayers continues to speak about is mold and asbestos I prepared an explanation because there are no records, not hiding anything or holding back anything. Going back as far as 2017-2018 which made sense because the recreation center was going through a very extensive renovation in the building; adding new units, transitioning city hall, Council chambers and Mayor's court. During that time after speaking with the city's building commissioner there was no evidence and no public documents of any inspections during that time. For the year 2019 the Board of Health has no documents but received a complaint from Ms. Sayers, complaint not an inspection. However, in that complaint the Board of Health representative did visit the recreation center. The Board of Health representative, the center's maintenance supervisor and myself walked through the building and who determined after doing an onsite inspection that there was no finding. When the center was closed due to the COVID-19 situation the staff did a thorough cleaning of the building, a contractor was brought in to do the high-dusting as well as the Microshield group to further clean the facility. I've tried to explain that and she is not believing me and can't give that does not exist. Her comments are out of line and think the negative tone regarding the recreation center is wrong because we have done everything imaginable to try and help the situation. There have been some very unfriendly situations and disturbances that we've tolerated and we said nothing. She is starting to go a little too far and don't think it's right and I have done everything we can to try and satisfy her request.

Mayor Gammella commented first off with Mr. Cooper we are looking into the legalities of doing what Council suggested with the city website. The other thing is Mr. Cooper has never contacted me asking what was going on and was taken back a little by his comments. I agree with Mr. Elliott everything the city had has been given to Ms. Sayers and the city has done everything possible to cooperate.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to go back to regular order of business.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

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 8:29 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED


April 6, 2021

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

