

**REGULAR CAUCUS MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:00 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, Finance Director Cingle, Mayor Gammella, Engineer Piatak, Assistant Finance Director Healy (7:30 p.m.) and Building Commissioner Hurst (10:01 p.m.).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. Regular Caucus meeting minutes held on February 9, 2021.

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

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

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

2. Regular Caucus meeting minutes held on February 26, 2021.

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION:**

1. WEDO RETENTION BASIN AND WENGLER DETENTION BASIN  
FEASIBILITY STUDY (Councilman Orcutt) **Power point presentation by City Engineer Piatak.**

Mr. Piatak mentioned Council authorized Euthenics to analyze two locations for installation of a retention or detention basins and as part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) cost-share program the district will reimburse the city for the cost of the study. Little background on detention basins is a common method for managing storm water and is typically installed in conjunction with new sub-divisions of commercial or industrial development; on or adjacent to rivers, streams and lakes to protect against flooding and erosion by storm water for a period of time and slowly releasing water at a controlled rate. There are two types of storm water basins a dry basin typically called a detention basin and a wet basin for a retention basin. The storm water storage bonding perspective the two function very similar. Detention basins are used to measure quantity and has limited effectiveness on protecting water quality unless it has a primitive pool feature. Dry basins manage quantity and retention basins can help manage water quality. With the Wengler basin parcels of land looked at were under the city's control with limited proper acquisition and less expensive. The Wengler basin would be along the rear yards of

**Discussion: cont.**

some of the Wengler residents between Interstate 71 (I-71), Wengler and Shelby Drives heading east. The area looked at for the Wengler basin is approximately 3.3 acres in size and we tried to utilize the entire area for the detention basin. There is about 16 acres of residential area that is making its way underneath I-71 and making its way into the basin. The Wengler, Robert and Doris sewers head north along Shelby Drive, part of Wengler. This drainage area of this basin is estimated to come out to 70.6 acres and looking at approximately 68 houses that would have the most impact by the basin. The Wengler basin would occupy the entire two parcels with the runoff at the end of the basin into existing storm sewers that bisect the property. This basin was analyzed as a dry basin there would be no permanent pool of water with a vegetative cover of grass; with regular maintenance of mowing required by the service department. The water would fill up the basin and exit via an existing pipe that comes out at the intersection of Wengler and Shelby and cuts back through the rear yards along Shelby under Hummel Road and into the Kolleda Ditch. The problem with the Kolleda Ditch is backwater that fills up the ditch and backs up into the city's system. In order to eliminate that backwater from the Kolleda Ditch would be installing a flat-gate at the control chamber. The analysis conducted showed that the 100-year event, 50-year event and 25-year event, this basin does not have the capacity to handle those events. It has been determined that the proper bank elevation is around 783 but due to the existing conditions around the basin we were limited to the 783 elevation to build up water based on that existing deposit and sewer information collected from the study. The 25-year elevation was approximately three to four inches above so we're looking at a basin here that could handle a little less than a 25-year event for the contributing drainage area. Doing further analysis to allow some discharge of these basins during a rain event and said to need a 36" pipe to allow from this basin barring any rain event and if able to do that than the 100-year event could be stored with a constant discharge throughout that; if that discharge could be eliminated during a rain event. The estimated construction cost on this basin is \$1.1 million-dollars and there could be funding available through the city's cost-sharing account with the sewer district. The direct funding from the district is not likely on this location due to not being on the regional network; this is on our local network but fairly confident that the community cost-share money could be used; there would be no funding from the district otherwise.

**Questions:**

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Piatak being right next to I-71 does I-71 runoff contribute to that area's issues?

Mr. Piatak responded about 60% is freeway and interchange and not all paved due to grassy areas. Most of the runoff is generated by the paved surfaces. Is it contributing to the drainage over there, yes absolutely. Is it part of the problem not sure but it is a contributing area to that drainage system.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Poindexter continued is some of the issues the city is having is contributed by I-71 is it possible through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) or U.S. Department of Transportation or any means like that?

Mr. Piatak responded never heard of ODOT funding the storm water management project such as this. When I-71 went in per the code back in the day. If I-71 were to be put in today, there would be storm water management as part of the project. The HWA would be the transportation department above ODOT and am not aware of any funding of projects they would be involved with after the fact.

Mr. Poindexter asked are the pipes exiting the detention basin in good repair leading up to the Kolleda Ditch?

Mr. Piatak responded to my knowledge they are and don't know otherwise. If the city is to move forward with a project those could be televised to verify the condition, have no reason to believe they are not.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Piatak if the \$1.1 million-dollars assuming those lines are good?

Mr. Piatak responded yes.

Mr. Vecchio asked Mr. Piatak you stated there are roughly 68 houses that would have the most benefit from this?

Mr. Piatak responded yes and no, I think the answer is yes, but would make a valid argument. That any water that can be stored is going to help the Wengler sewer to drain more freely. Any water that can be captured will allow the rest of the system to function more efficiently. Not sure of any area that is a chronic flooding problem, not saying it doesn't happen.

Mr. Mencini interjected that section is in Ward 2, the end part of Slater and a small part of Gilmore last May 15<sup>th</sup> the water went in and back out.

Mr. Piatak stated there is a system that goes to the north and a system that goes to the south to Sylvia; guess it depends if they were in that area. Could be a different drainage system because the area to the south of the diagram goes out to Abram Creek, near the service garage.

Mr. Piatak continued the Wedo basin at the proposed Wedo Park at the end of Shelby Drive. The parcel is approximately 5.7 acres that includes the federal reserve of Marines. There have been previous attempts to acquire some of this property to make a bigger basin but the request to purchase some of the land was denied.

**Discussion: cont.**

Currently, the city is dealing with this parcel of land with a ball diamond, playground, pavilion, parking lot and cell tower. The cell tower and the connecting little building remain. The Wedo detention basin would fix up Shelby Drive, north of Hummel Road and also fix up part of Hummel on both sides. The certain part where there is a divide in the sewer comes up through Ashland and Harrison with residential and some other property that is part of the Marine facility. These areas would be a contributing drainage to the proposed Wedo basin; about 40 acres. There is one area that is roughly 84% of the drainage area and encompasses approximately 215 residential units. The proposed Wedo basin would be placed on approximately 4.8 acres and the asphalt parking lot would remain as well as the cell tower. Unfortunately, the ball diamond, pavilion and the playground would have to be removed or relocated. The storm water on this basin would enter along Shelby, the sewers down Shelby along the backyards and exit north of the cell tower. What would be done is divert water in that storm pipe at the corner of Wedo Park and divert into the basin. This basin was analyzed as a retention or wet basin and we looked at including a walking trail around the basin, include some landscaping around the basin with some wetland planning in the water area. This could be a two-step basin with permanent pools being a little deeper by the outlet by running a pipe and to the east there would be shallower water. With this basin there is an opportunity to make the retention an attractive place for people to walk the trail estimated at 3/10 of a mile. The parking lot would be for parking of cars and access to the cell tower and building. Similar to the Wengler basin the problem the city has is the backwater from the Kolleda Ditch in one area with a flat-gate to be installed at an outlet to prevent a backup into the basin. When backing up into the basin the city is rendering some of the effectiveness in an area to provide storage. Basically want to cutoff the basin from allowing any backwater to enter and just allowing water to exit the basin. The analysis of the proposed basin per storm is 100-year/24-hour storm. There was approximately at the predicted water surface elevation is storing around 16 acre feet of water, one acre is one-foot deep. So the city is storing approximately 16-acre foot of water which converts to 5.2 million gallons of water, significant amount of water. The preliminary design sets the pop-up basin around 782 or 783 and the 100-year watermark is approximately four-feet below that. Meaning that this basin here has some additional storage available along the culvert for the so called 100-year event. The city is looking at adding an additional 9.7 feet of storage. The capacity of the Wedo basin is much more significant than the Wengler basin with logistics of overall size and some of the deposit of some of the backwater from the Kolleda Ditch. I like the fact that the city can provide some additional storage at this location. One other feature that I like about this location is that there may be an opportunity to lessen the burden on some of the local storm sewers; meaning the swerves running down the street. These sewers were designed for a two-year to five- year event meaning that anything seized in that event these sewers are running under pressure and not as efficient if there were a larger sewer. With this basin the city has an opportunity to potentially run a storm sewer through the yards and tap into the existing line.

**Discussion: cont.**

What would that do? The water right now goes around and by putting a pipe through the yards that would lessen some of the burden on the local system. Less burden on the system means it will flow more efficient and have less chances of backup and less opportunity for backup and like the opportunity that the Wedo basin divides. The estimated cost is \$2.34 million-dollars and the large driving cost in any of these projects, being a dirt project, is being able to find a place to dump the dirt or if the contractor has a place to dump the dirt that could drive down the cost. This project at this location would not qualify for the funding through the sewer district but would qualify under the community cost-share program but nothing outside of that cost-share account. Both of these basins will not solve all the city's drainage and storm sewer problems. There would still be backups and things that are out of our control with private property. Want to touch base on a couple of other items that can be referred to later. Wedo Park basin would be drained down the Wedo segment to the Brookgate segment of the Kolleda Ditch through a big culvert then out under Brookpark Road entering into the City of Cleveland. The Wengler basin area hopefully ends up on the lower segment of the Brookgate segment of the Kolleda Ditch. Any storm water that can be held in the Wedo Park and Wengler basin ultimately comes to the Brookgate segment everyone will benefit. However, the impact may be not as significant as the Wedo basin would have on Ashland and Harrison and some Hummel residents it would affect these people but not as quite as much. This information was sent over by the sewer district that provides report of precipitation and the city has a rain-gauge at the city hall and can see over the course: 2015 - 39" of rain, 2017 - 7", 2017 - 44" with a big uptake in 2018 going back down in 2019 and what was received in 2020. People aren't concerned too much with the 100-year event and could have a 100-year event every year or twice in the same year. The two basins we looked at Wedo and Wengler we want to drain them via gravity and not rely on a machine to pump them down, if you had to you could. Basically how these things work is this would be placed at the outlet side of the basin water would flow into the basin there would be permanent pool elevations established and when it rains water would build up and flow through a little opening. This little opening would allow water to flow through but not all the water coming into the basin. What will happen is the water will keep building up and when gets to this point would allow more water to discharge and flow out. In a case where these two openings get full or there are other issues the water will overflow into a catch-basin drain on top of catch-basin structure. There would be an emergency spillway and the water would overflow into the ditch. Speaking about flat-gates when there is water in this channel it will push against the gates not allowing them to open. When that happens it will not allow the water to backup into the basin. Mr. Piatak showed pictures of problems in the city. Such as a sanitary lateral connection to a Brook Park home that I was involved with the service department in trying to figure out what was going on. This root was on private property and if the Wedo or Wengler basin would be put in and this root-mass is in one of the resident's service laterals, within that area. I am fairly confident that the residents are going to still have

**Discussion: cont.**

drainage issues whether it be flooding around the foundation, coming up through the walls or a floor drain. An obstruction in a service connection the Wedo or Wengler basin will not necessarily help this resident, with this type of issue. This is not that uncommon to find especially in a community the age of the City of Brook Park with infrastructure and buildings that were in place when a lot of these houses were built. Showing the same root-mass that measured six-foot in diameter so not much water is passing through there as the water tries to leave the storm-sanitary connection. This is a sanitary connection on a residential property that we stuck a normal garden hose down the gutter and downspout and let it run for approximately five-minutes; putting some dye in the gutter for findings. Why is water coming into sanitary sewers is due to the backup in the storm sewers; a lit-mass in our storm sewer. A lot of the City of Brook Park was built with a dual trench meaning the storm and sanitary sewer are in the same trench together. When a storm sewer gets surcharged during a two-year or five-year event it will start pushing through the leaky joints and pushes it into the sanitary sewer. So when there is a surcharge of storm water through the sanitary sewer some of that is due to the dual-trench arrangement of the utilities. If the storm sewer and sanitary sewer on the opposite side of the road there would be a clay-mass that the water would have to travel through to get to the other sewer.

**Questions:**

Mr. Orcutt stated great presentation, the storm-water management money that comes back to the city that is the NEORS D correct?

Mr. Piatak responded yes, the cost-sharing program provides funding from the sewer district member communities for specific storm-water management projects. To implement a community cost-share program the district from a bank account called the community cost-share account. This is for the collection and distribution of funds derived from the storm water fee collected in each member community; meaning residents and businesses in the City of Brook Park all contribute to this storm water fee. Twenty-five (25%) of that collected fee goes into the Brook Park community cost-share account. In order for the city to access that account there is an application that gets filled out that is then submitted to the sewer district to make the determination of being a good project or not an applicable project for the cost-share account. The project is a reimbursement type program with the city spending the money first and the gets reimbursed in terms of the application approved by the district.

Mr. Orcutt stated if the city was able to fund this project ourselves and submit that application the city could basically pay for that project and make the money back for this project through this program.

Mr. Piatak responded it's my understanding the district thought that this study was a good project. Conversations with the district indicated that one or both of the

basins would be good projects. I don't think there is that much money to pay for it at least funds can be allocated from anticipated future collections towards the project. There is money in that account the city could apply for funding to cover part of the costs but don't know if all the account.

Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Piatak if he knows the total amount the city has in that account?

Mr. Piatak responded approximately \$586,000 as of February 28<sup>th</sup> including the projects the city submitted are all accounted for in that total; that is the funds available to the city. Think there are anticipated collections for 2021 is in the \$300,00.00 plus range. If I understand this correctly if the city doesn't spend any additional money at the end of 2021 there would be approximately \$800,000.00 to \$900,000.00 left. The service department has applied for some funds for catch-basin cleaning and maintenance and not sure how that is figured into those totals.

Mr. Orcutt clarified some of those funds are being used by the service department and believe last year we allocated \$200,000.00 towards the Middlebrook ditch, correct?

Mr. Piatak responded correct and fairly confident those dollars were accounted for in those numbers mentioned, because those projects were already in the pipeline.

Mr. Orcutt continued in past conversations about this the concept is if the city builds a detention basin at 5.2 million-gallons at Wedo Park, for example. The city will actually provide some relief maybe not for all residents on the larger storms. But will definitely provide flooding relief to the residents and that to me is a high priority for this community. The reason for talking about the money so much is the city does have to fund it. With the cost-sharing program the city would have to take the existing money the city has to put towards that program and come up with the rest of the money to fund the program and work with the sewer district to use the incoming money whether it's \$300,000.00 every year to pay the city back after paying for the project upfront. Has an application been filled out for this yet?

Mr. Piatak responded no, that application has not been filled out or submitted for Wengler or Wedo.

Mr. Orcutt interjected Middleburg Hts. is installing three (3) detention basins with the project being mainly paid for by the NEORS's billing process. Possibly, Mayor Gammella could get a call to Middleburg Hts. Mayor Castelli to see exactly what that process was so the City of Brook Park can move forward with our project a little quicker.

Mr. Piatak continued I don't have any knowledge of the Middleburg Hts. project for basins. It is my understand those run on a regional network so the funding for those

**Discussion: cont.**

is a little different with the district having some participation, other than the community cost-share account for that project.

Mr. Orcutt concurred and stated when the sewer district spoke to Council in September they used that as an example. To Mr. Piatak would you be able to provide suggestions for homeowners of some things they can do on their own.

Mr. Piatak stated yes.

Mr. Mencini concurred with Mr. Orcutt and would like to see that in one of the city newsletters. To Mr. Piatak in the whole city former Mayors and Councils spent millions of dollars digging up part of the city to stop the flooding. With the storm of May 15, 2020 all the work just mentioned there was still flooding of 700 homes. Looking at the numbers on this project Shelby Drive is \$1.1 million dollars and Wedo is \$3.4 million-dollars. How would this help the city as a whole? Is this the start of solving these problems with these problems ever be solved? Will flooding ever be stopped with the city being built too fast and homes in the wrong locations. Would the entire sewer system have to be torn out?

Mr. Piatak responded don't know if flooding issues will ever be solved even in new communities. There are rain events that are exceeding the design capacity of basins that were put in as part of the new subdivision in a city. The sewers installed in the streets are not designed to handle a 100-year event or carry that type of flow. If the city was to alleviate flooding, we would have to reconstruct the entire community because of the local sewers that run up and down the streets. I believe the Wedo basin is a good step forward in making an effort to address some additional water. The sanitary sewer put in on Smith Road from I-480 to Michael Drive was a good project and helps a lot of people. People are still getting flooded and having sewer backups, some of it on their own property and some of it not on their property, but I will stand behind that project, it was a good project. The storage chambers put in the 1980's those were good projects and helped out a lot of people. If the city had 700 people flood in the May event, I would be afraid to hear what the number was had those other projects been done. I think we are making steps forward and this is additional step forward; won't solve all flooding problems.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mr. Piatak the two basin projects in the presentation neither one of them are projects that are eligible for payment through the sewer district. Are there any projects being talked about tonight that the sewer district would embrace and pay for? To follow-up on Mr. Orcutt's comments about Middleburg Hts. I believe they received a \$4 million-dollar grant for three basins, two having properties already acquired and ready to start the project. What else is out there that the city can take advantage of?



**Discussion:**

Mr. Piatak stated in the district's master plan that they presented to Council, at the corner of Smith and Hummel Roads there was discussion of some basins priorities; this project would require land acquisition which would drive the price up tremendously. I've had discussions with the district about a basin at Brookgate (shopping center) by eliminating some of the parking lot; those are the two basin-type locations. There was also talk of outside the City of Brook Park of a basin in Middleburg Hts. near Sheldon Road so anything the city can take out of the system and store in a basin is going to help people in our community. If it's in the Wedo Park drainage area will allow that water to flow in there; any basin that can go in is going to help improve the flooding situation. Any depth of water that can be taken out of the system and store it is going to be beneficial.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mr. Piatak, as our city engineer, I would like to see what the master plan would be.; I know one or two basins isn't going to do it. If you could come up with a plan of a three, four or five-year plan starting now and where we have to be in five years from now. It is important that this is done right and have one shot left to do it right and if there is some money available out there that the city could utilize. As the city engineer I would like to hear what your opinion is as to overall help as many people as possible.

Mr. Piatak referred to a location from the presentation and stated I was excited about this spot and thought there could be some opportunity for this location. In conversations with the district found out they don't have any monies available until 2032 or 2034. That's not to say that if the city were to kick in some money the project couldn't get moved up but a five-year plan on something like this. Even if the city is kicking in some of the money don't know if five-years is doable, the long term plan may be a little longer than five-years due to funding issues.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Piatak looking at this I'm going to bring in the Kolleda culvert. As far as that goes with that other area just talked about at Hummel and Smith Roads. Which one is higher on the radar or list?

Mr. Piatak responded not certain.

Mr. Troyer continued there has been talk of something because the culvert has to be replaced and they have looked into putting one there where it says Kolleda culvert enclosure.

Mr. Piatak responded that's true, however, that runs on private property and now talking land acquisition. There are some other things that are going on with that culvert and the culver being in a failure mode. The culvert is on private property some of the top planks are collapsing. The district was over there as recent as last week pulling some of those planks out. The structure itself is in decent shape and

**Discussion: cont.**

think the bottom and sides are okay but the top is falling in. I'm not trying to discount that location but see some long road ahead on something like that.

Mr. Troyer continued understand that but it seemed to me talking to them that wasn't as far off when you said 2032 for Hummel and Smith Roads. Just wondering if the district gave you an update on that since it is another one on their radar. The Hummel and Smith project came out of the blue a few months, I never heard of that one before but did hear about the Kolleda culvert enclosure, quite a while back.

Mr. Piatak stated for clarification the Smith & Hummel project was discussed at the same time of the Kolleda culvert enclosure. I think there was some information during that presentation of some issues at Brookpark Road and meeting 100-year design at Brookpark Road. That was unrelated to the Kolleda enclosure that was providing some additional capacity along the rear of Brookpark Road and I-480. Think there was some information that wasn't quite clear in their intent because when I heard the 100-year design, my thoughts were that's great, what is that project? May want to engage the district for some clarification on some of these along with funding and timing.

Mr. Troyer stated you're saying that the Hummel and Smith Roads project was discussed at a meeting Council had.

Mr. Piatak commented it was part of their presentation.

Mr. Troyer interjected I would have to strongly disagree with that unless it was brushed over really quick because that was not part of anything read, received or meeting that I attended. The Wedo retention basin you mentioned that it has the flat-gate on it and the capacity is going to be more than is generally needed; you also mentioned running a pipe from Harrison into it. That would not actually necessarily help because it's the same neighborhood the water is being collected from. That would help the water get there faster but wouldn't necessarily help. It would help with the flooding by getting it out of there faster but wouldn't be holding any water from another area; would be the same water just getting there faster, correct.

Mr. Piatak responded what I said is there is a local system along Harrison and Ashland that all this water there is 40 acres of residential areas draining through this location. To put in a supplemental pipe through this area would allow some of that water to bypass the rest of this area and get into the basin quicker.

Mr. Troyer interjected same water just faster. If the city would have that capacity what can the city do to use that extra capacity? Can we do something with the Wengler water to use that capacity. There is the flap gate that won't allow backflow

**Discussion: cont.**

is there anything the city can do for that?

Mr. Piatak responded suppose the city could look into diverting some drainage area closer to Smith Road or, for example, along Muskingum and divert it into the basin. I'm a little reluctant to because these the existing infrastructure is basically going to remain intact. Let's say we take water from Muskingum and put into this basin how's that water from Muskingum going to get there? It's going to go through the existing pipes now putting more water into a surcharge system. The pipes are still designed for a two to five-year event. Will be putting more water into those pipes and I want to reanalyze that or rethink that scenario. If we were to do that I would want to analyze that excess storage, we will store more than that 100-year event which nothing says we can't.

Mr. Troyer interjected you're only doing a certain area unless there is a heavier rain or more water wouldn't be storing more. I understand what you're saying with the Brookgate segment, Wedo segment and upper Kolleda. In these heavy rains the upper Kolleda fills up and appears to be staying obviously isn't it's flowing underneath, in a big storm. If you have a big storm the Wedo segment would probably off some capacity to the Brookgate segment because the Wedo Park is holding it. No it wouldn't it would offer some until the flat gate closes up. Once the flat gate is closed up then the Wedo retention basin would become functional and filled up already. Can you give a percentage of what kind of water relief, pressure relief that the Wedo Park retention basin would have for the Brookgate segment? It would have something but believe if there was a heavy rain the flat gate shut. The Wedo segment would fill up and that would be the end of it with the Wedo segment base would be a small detention base. We know that in a heavy rain Kolleda fills up so how much is going to happen for the Brookgate segment.

Mr. Piatak responded I'm confident to say that we're going to take 5.1 million or 5.2 million, whatever the number was in that 100-year analysis, would be taken out of that Brookgate segment, the big four culvert. What impact would that have moving upstream is the question. What impact does that have moving through the upper Kolleda? That is an analysis beyond what we analyzed for Wedo Park that was some information that I requested from the district's consultant who is doing the watershed master plan. Asking for them to input the Wedo basin with what would be the anticipated water surface elevation at different locations in the city. If the water surface elevation can be lowered at the Kolleda headwall a foot that would be the reference point. To say what percent not sure if I can give a percent as far as how much it's going to help and what percentage of people it's going to help. I will follow-up with the district to see if they were able to run that analysis.

Mr. Troyer stated once those flap gates close during a heavy rain there is no help for the Brookgate segment. The Wedo segment is full and everything from that

neighborhood which we need to do; Harrison, Ashland and Hummel is all going into the Wedo Park retention basin and not letting anything out, so it's stopping it. Once the Wedo segment is full that's the end of the relief there's no relief anymore. I don't know at what point that would happen or year rain that would be. We don't do Wengler then the upper Kolleda is going to be full in a heavy rain, seen it. I don't see that much there is some but think in a lesser rain there is going to be this Brookgate segment going to help but don't know how much that really does, don't live over there. I'm concerned we do the right thing and think the Wedo Park retention basin is a decent idea and would rather have it paid for by the sewer district and do some of the other ones. These people don't have that kind of time to deal with this stuff and am for in doing something like this but would rather do the bigger projects first then see what is needed. This little neighborhood needs help and think we should give it to them. With the storm water fee is a fee put on residents' sewer bills with the city getting 25% as explained but remember that is the resident's money to apply and get back for the residents. Should always want to do that it's a good idea my only issue is I think the way we would do this is to borrow the money to get this project done and pay it back with the cost-share money. My only issue would be is I don't want to commit all the cost-share money on the payback every year. If I remember correctly it's about \$26,000 a month that the city gets out of that. My suggestion would be on the payback and only use 60% of that because we use that cost-share money for other things within the city i.e. ditch-cleaning, catch-basin cleaning, supplies, tools and that kind of stuff. I would not be interested in using those monies totally and am aware that Ward 1 has never received a project using cost-share monies. Would not be happy with taking all that money and using it in one neighborhood but am a project like this because these people need relief.

Mayor Gammella stated Council excellent discussion this is something that we are going to have to do. It's not just going to be two (2) basins and talking with the engineer, sewer district and some of you. It's going to end up being a series of five basins over the years and looks like one basin will be located at Kolleda, another near Smith by the building department and also in the Pemberton area. That will be five to be constructed down the road that will help the flooding, however, the problem the homeowners have and we must make certain they understand it. If their walls or foundation are leaking this has nothing to do with the sewers or retention.

Mr. Orcutt stated great presentation, the storm water management money that comes back to the city is through the NEORSD billing, correct?

Mr. Piatak concurred and provided information on the NEORSD cost-sharing program. This program provides funding to the sewer district members communities for specific storm water management projects. To implement a community cost-share program the district forms a financial account (bank account) and call it the community cost-share account. This is for the collection and distribution of funds derived from the storm-water fee collected in each member community. All

**Discussion: cont.**

residents and businesses in the City of Brook Park contribute to this storm water fee. 25% of that collected fee goes into the Brook Park community cost-share account. In order for the city to access that account there is application that gets filled out that is submitted to the sewer district who approves a good project or disapproves, not really applicable for the cost-share account. This program is a reimbursement type program with the city spending the money first and reimbursed with the terms of the approved application.

Mr. Orcutt stated if the city was able to fund this project ourselves and submit that application the city could basically pay for that project and make the money back through this program?

Mr. Piatak stated it is my understanding that the district thought this study was a good project, conversations with them indicated that one or both basins would be good projects. I don't think there is that much money in the city's cost-share account to pay for it. Can allocate funds from the anticipated future collections towards the project but there is money in that account that if the city deemed appropriate could apply for funding to cover part or all of the costs, not sure it would cover all the costs.

Mr. Orcutt asked what is the total amount in that fund currently?

Mr. Piatak responded thinks \$586,000 as of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Don't know if there are projects the city has already submitted and if those are accounted for in that \$586,000.00, that is the funds available to the city. I think the anticipated collections for 2021 is \$300+ range. If I understand correctly if the city doesn't spend any additional money at the end of 2021 there would be approximately \$800,000.00 to \$900,000.00. I now the service department has applied for some funds for catch-basin cleaning and maintenance and not sure how that's figured into those totals.

Mr. Orcutt clarified the city is using some of those monies currently with the service department maintenance. I believe last year \$200,000.00 was allocated towards the Middlebrook Blvd. ditch, correct.

Mr. Piatak concurred and fairly confident those dollars were accounted for in those numbers just mentioned because those projects are in the pipeline. Due to the more recent applications by the service department not sure where that fits into the \$586,000.00.

Mr. Orcutt continued there has been discussions on this and think we all agree the concept is if the city builds retention basin at 5.2 million gallons at Wedo Park, for example, the city will actually provide some relief. Maybe not for all residents on the larger storms but definitely will provide flooding to the residents, that to me is a high

**Discussion: cont.**

priority for this community. The reason for talking about the money so much is because the city has to fund it. With the cost-sharing program is the city will have to take the existing money we have and put towards that program; come up with the rest of the money to fund the program and work with the sewer district to use the incoming money whether it's \$300,000.00+ every year to pay the city back after paying for the project upfront? Has the city filled out an application for this yet?

Mr. Piatak responded no confident that application has not been submitted or filled out for Wengler or Wedo.

Mr. Orcutt continued Middleburg Heights is installing three detention basins and the project will be paid through the NEORSD billing process. Maybe Mayor Gammella could reach out to Middleburg Hts. Mayor Castelli to see what that process was. So the City of Brook Park can get moving with our project a little quicker.

Mr. Piatak stated I don't have intimate knowledge of the Middleburg Hts. basin projects. It is my understanding that they are on a regional network, therefore, the funding for those is a little different with the NEORSD having some participation, other than the community cost-share project.

Mr. Orcutt commented when the regional sewer district came in September they used that as an example. The last thing is, think this came up before, would you be able to provide suggestions to homeowners of some things they can do on their own.

Mr. Piatak responded can do that.

Mr. Mencini concurred with Mr. Orcutt of having suggestions for homeowners possibly in the city's newsletters. On that, obviously, this pertains to Ward 3 and will help relive flooding. My question to Mr. Piatak in the whole city former Mayors' spent millions of dollars and dug up many parts of this city to stop flooding as well as other Councils' putting money towards it. With the storm of May 15, 2020 of all the work mentioned there still was a Councilman say that 740 homes flooded. With the numbers put up in the presentation Shelby Drive is \$1.1 million-dollars and Wedo is \$2.3 million dollars totaling \$3.4 million dollars. Heard the word relieve many times tonight and have flooding problems on Sheldon and Smith Roads sporadic in Ward 2. How will this help the city as a whole, is this the start of solving these problems and will the city ever solve these problems. Would the entire sewer system have to be torn out?

Mr. Piatak responded don't know if all the flooding issues will be resolved. Even in new communities there are rain events occurring that are exceeding the design capacities of basins, that were put in as part of a new city or subdivision. The sewers installed in the streets they are not designed to handle a 100-year event, not

**Discussion: cont.**

designed to carry that type of flow. If we were draining the City of Brook Park over a cliff in order to eliminate flooding I would say you would have to re-sewer the entire community because it was local sewers that run up and down the streets that are undersized. I believe that the Wedo basin is the good step forward in making an effort to address some additional flood-water. The sanitary sewers put in down Smith Road from I-480 to Michael Drive almost the entire of Smith Road. That was a good project and is helping out a lot of residents and yes people are still getting flooded and sewer backups with some of it on their own property; some of it is not on their property and stand behind that was a good project. The storage chambers put in the 1980's those were good projects and helped out a lot of people. If the city had 780 residents flood in the May event, I'd be afraid to hear the number had those projects not been done. Think the city is making steps forward and think this is an additional step forward, will not solve all the city's problems.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mr. Piatak the two basin projects being discussed and neither one of those projects being eligible for payment through the sewer district itself. Are there any projects along with this that the sewer district would embrace and pay for? To follow-up on Mr. Orcutt's about Middleburg Hts. I believe they received about \$4 million-dollar grant to do the three basins with two having properties already acquired and ready to move forward. What can the City of Brook Park do along with paying for this ourselves and getting into the cost-sharing agreement reimbursement. What else is out there that the city could possibly take advantage of?

Mr. Piatak responded in the NEORS D master plan at the corner of Smith and Hummel there was discussions of some basins. This project in this area would require land acquisition which drives the price up tremendously. In discussions with the district about this basin and thinking out of the box to try and do something that benefits some kind of basin at Brookgate shopping center by eliminating some of the parking lot. Those are the two basin type locations and there was also talk of a basin, outside of Brook Park, in Middleburg Hts. near Sheldon Road. Anything that can be taken out of the system and stored in a basin is going to help people in the community. If it's upstream of the community if it's in the Wedo Park basin area that will allow water to flow in, any basin that can go in is going to help improve the situation. Any depth of water that can be taken out of the system and stored is going to be beneficial.

Mr. Salvatore continued would like to see Mr. Piatak what your master plan would be and know that one or two basins aren't going to do it. If you could set up a plan for three, four or five-year plan starting now and where the city will be in five-years from now. It is important to do this right and have one shot to do this right and if there are available monies to utilize, as city engineer would like to hear what your opinion is to help as many people as possible.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Piatak stated going back to back to this location on the map I was excited about this spot because it would be new opportunity in this location and in conversations with the district. Come to find out the district has no monies available until 2032 or 2034 but that's not to say that if the city would kick-in some money that couldn't get moved up. A five-year plan on something like this even if the city puts in some monies not sure if five-years is doable. What I'm saying is the city's long-term plan may be longer than five-years due to funding issues.

Mr. Troyer stated would like to bring in the Kolleda culvert and as far as the other area you just spoke of at Hummel and Smith. Which one is higher on the radar or list?

Mr. Piatak responded not certain.

Mr. Troyer continued there has been talk of something because the culvert has to be replaced and the district has looked into putting one there where it says Kolleda culvert enclosure.

Mr. Piatak stated that's true, however, that's on private property that involves land acquisition. There are other things that are going on with that culvert that is in failure mode; some of the top planks are collapsing. The district has been over there as recently as last week pulling some of those planks out. The structure itself is in decent shape and think the bottom and sides are good, just the top is falling in. I'm not trying to discount that location but see a long road ahead on something like that.

Mr. Troyer stated understand that but it seems to me in talking to the district that wasn't a far as you were talking about with 2032 for the Hummel and Smith location. Just wondering if the district gave you an update on that one because that's one on the radar. Leaving that just trying to figure out because the Hummel-Smith project came out of the blue a few months ago. Never heard of that one before but did hear about the Kolleda culvert enclosure quite a while back.

Mr. Piatak interjected for clarification the Smith-Hummel project was discussed at the same sewer district that the Kolleda culvert enclosure. I think there was some information during that presentation where the district was discussing of needing a 100-year design at Brookpark Road; that was unrelated to the Kolleda enclosure. That was providing some additional capacity along the businesses along the rear of Brookpark Road and I-480. Think there was some information that wasn't quite clear as to their intent because I know when I heard that preliminary design; thought that's great what is that project. May want to engage the district for some clarification on some of these with funding and timing.

Mr. Troyer stated you're saying the Hummel-Smith project was discussed at a



**Discussion: cont.**

meeting Council had.

Mr. Piatak responded believe it was part of their presentation.

Mr. Troyer strongly disagrees because if that was mentioned to me unless it was brushed over really quick. That was not anything I read, received or a meeting I attended. Leaving that the Wedo retention basin you mentioned that it has the flat-gate on it and the capacity is actually going to be more than generally needed. Then you also mentioned running a pipe from Harrison Drive into it. That would not actually, correct me if I'm wrong, that would not necessarily help because it's the same neighborhood water is being collected from. That would get the water there faster and would help with the flooding because it would get out water out faster. But wouldn't be holding any water from another area it would be the same water just getting there faster, correct?

Mr. Piatak responded what I said there is a local system along the local streets along Harrison and Ashland that all this water of 40 acres of residential areas draining into this location. Putting in a supplemental pipe in this area that will allow some of that to bypass the rest of this area and get into the basin quicker.

Mr. Troyer mentioned it's still the same water, just gets there faster.

Mr. Piatak concurred.

Mr. Troyer continued what can the city do to use that extra capacity? Can the city do something with the Wengler water to get in there? Use that capacity because the flap-gate won't anything backflow. Is there anything the city can do for that?

Mr. Piatak responded could look into diverting to a drainage area closer to Smith Road or, for example, along Muskingum. Divert into the basin but am a little reluctant to because the existing infrastructure is basically going to remain intact. Let's say water is taken from Muskingum and put into this basin how is that water from Muskingum going to get there; it's going to go through the existing pipes. Now there will be more water put into a surcharge system with the pipes still being designed for a two to five-year event. So there will be more water into those pipes and would like to reanalyze or rethink that scenario. If the city were to put in the Wedo basin would want to utilize that excess storage, the city would be storing more than that 100-year event and nothing says that the city can't. If more water is stored at Wedo that means less is getting to culvert.

Mr. Troyer asked how would more water be stored due to only doing a certain area. Unless there is a heavier rain or more water more won't be stored. Understand what you are saying with the green Brookgate segment, Wedo segment and upper Kolleda.

**Discussion: cont.**

In these heavy rains I've been there the upper Kolleda fills up and appears to be stagnant, obviously isn't it's flowing underneath in a big storm. When there is a big storm the Wedo segment would probably offer some capacity to the Brookgate segment because the Wedo Park (basin) is holding it. No, it wouldn't, it would offer some until the flat-gate is closed up. One the flat-gate is closed up then the Wedo retention basin would become functional and would be filled up already. Can you provide a percentage of what kind of water relief or pressure relief that this Wedo Park retention basin would have for the Brookgate segment? It would have something but believe that once there is a heavy rain the flap-gate shut the Wedo segment would fill up and that would be the end of it. The Wedo segment would be a small detention ditch and that would be it. The city knows in a heavy rain the upper Kolleda fills up I mean how much really benefit is going to happen for the Brookgate segment.

Mr. Piatak responded I'm confident to say that there will be 5.1 to 5.2 million gallons, whatever the number was in that 100-year analysis. The city will be taking that out of the Brookgate segment, take out of the big-four culvert. What impact will that have moving upstream is the question. What impact does that have moving through the upper Kolleda. That is an analysis beyond what was analyzed for the Wedo Park. That was some information that I had requested from the district's consultant who is doing the watershed master plan. I requested some of that information of inputting the Wedo basin and give a water service elevation. What would be the anticipated water service elevation at different locations. If the city can move the water service elevation over to the Kolleda headwall a foot that would be a reference point. To say what percent I'm not sure if I can give a percentage as far as the percentage of people it's going to help. I will follow-up with the district to see if they were able to run that analysis and can provide the counts on the Wedo and Wengler basins to see if they can fit into their model. The district is spending millions of dollars remodeling their watersheds and that could be on the scope the city would like to do.

Mr. Troyer continued once those flap-gates close in a heavy rain there is no help for Brookgate segment. The Wedo segment is full and everything from that neighborhood, which we need to do, Harrison, Ashland and Hummel all goes into the Wedo Park retention basin. It's not letting anything out but once the Wedo segment is full that's the end of the relief. I don't know at what point that would happen and how many year rain that would be and have seen it. If the city doesn't do Wengler than the upper Kolleda will be full in a heavy rain. In a lesser rain the Brookgate segment is going to be helped but don't know how much good that does. I am concerned that the city does the right thing and think the Wedo Park retention basin is a decent idea but would rather have it paid for by the sewer district and do some of the other ones, these people don't have that kind of time to deal with this. Am for doing something like this but, again, would rather do the bigger projects first and

**Discussion: cont.**

see what is needed but this little neighborhood needs help and think the city should give it to them. Want to go over the storm water fee is put on residents' sewer bill with the city getting 25% of that as explained. Remember that is the residents' money that the city can apply for and get back for the residents. The city should always want to do that, it's a good idea. My only issue is and think the way the city would do this is to borrow the money to get this project done and pay it back with the cost-share money. My only issue is I don't want to commit all the cost-share money on the payback every year. I think it's about \$26,000.00 a month the city gets out of that.

Mr. Piatak clarified \$26,000.00 a month from the district.

Mr. Vecchio stated for a point of information because Mr. Piatak had said it was roughly \$360,000.00 I think that \$26,000.00 you're talking about per month.

Mr. Piatak concurred with the \$26,000.00 figure.

Mr. Troyer continued my suggestion would be to not to use on the payback. Do this project on the payback only using 60% of that because those cost-share monies are used for other things within the city i.e. ditch-cleaning, catch-basin cleaning and supplies and tools, etc. Would not be interested in using it totally and am aware that Ward 1 has never received a project using cost-share monies so would not be happy with using all that money in one neighborhood.

Mayor Gammella stated excellent discussion and this is something the city is going to have to do. It's just not going to be two basins and have talked with the city engineer, sewer district and some Councilmembers. It's going to end up being a series of five basins over the years. It looks like one of those basins will be located at Kolleda, one near Smith and Hummel but not exactly there but somewhere on Smith Road close to the building department location and also in the Pemberton area. That's five basins that will be constructed in the future and no question will help the flooding, however, the problem that the homeowners' have and have to make certain they understand, that if their walls or foundation are leaking this isn't going to help. This has nothing to do with the sewers or the retention but there will be a series of five and really thing this will alleviate the problem. In the budget that will be discussed later the city's underground storage tanks need some work but again, think this is a good start getting the retention and/or detention basins.

Mr. Orcutt wanted to add some clarity to the lengthy discussion only because some of the areas mentioned by some Councilmembers was not just identified in the worst areas. That would be Doris, Robert and Wengler areas that were not highlighted. For clarity to the residents' viewing these retention basins as the city takes on that water and 5.2 million gallons at Wedo Park at 4.4 acres. The other basin is 3.3 acres

**Discussion: cont.**

and will assume those two basins will be 7 to 8 million gallons of water. The more water taken out of Kolleda ditch helps everyone as a whole that utilizes that circuit. Through some of the discussions tonight calls will be received that people will think there is going to be no relief for the Doris, Robert and Wengler areas when that's not actually true. In fact, the engineer has explained that the more water taken out of the Kolleda ditch essentially helps the residents' south of Snow Road in the Michael area. To identify to Ashland, Harrison and Shelby areas I don't agree with that and am saying that because I've built retention basins in the military. Agree with the engineer that the city can't guarantee that water can't get into the basement but want to offer that clarification to residents for the entire City of Brook Park. As the city builds these projects that will add relief to the ditch which essentially will help. The Mayor is correct that there is a two-part system and residents' have to do some things on your own. When the drain tiles around homes has nowhere to go water will find a way into that foundation and destroy. This project is important and wanted to clarify to viewing residents' that may have concerns with their areas not getting any relief.

Mr. Troyer stated just going by what I have in front of me, to Mr. Piatak where does the Doris, Robert and Wengler areas flow to?

Mr. Piatak responded the headwall at the Kolleda ditch.

Mr. Troyer continued okay, my understanding was that the Wengler was kind of off the table and didn't think that would help and the city is looking at Wedo, that was my understanding last time we talked.

Mr. Piatak responded I feel as though that if the city is going to do one or the other I feel the Wedo basin will give the city more bang for the buck as to cost. I think will offer more protection for the people in the Wedo basin rather than the Wengler basin. The Wedo basin will help people on Wengler, Robert and Doris and will stand behind that. I think the city's most bang for the buck goes to Wedo and that's not to say that Wengler isn't going to help.

Mr. Troyer stated is the city now looking at doing both Wedo and Wengler? Because I was talking in reference to Wengler only not doing Wedo, that's what I was discussing. If the city is going to do Wengler that will take pressure off the upper Kolleda ditch and that makes a difference if both basins are going to be done. I was talking to just the Wedo retention basin not the Wengler detention basin being included. A while back I thought that Wengler be done tomorrow because at \$1.1 million-dollars and amount of work just removing dirt basically and concrete work. Thought that was something that could be done right away and was steered away from that by you and others saying no Wedo is the one. This is why I came up with this with my understanding that the city did the study on both but was led to believe

**Discussion: cont.**

that Wengler was the one the city was looking at doing. If both were done that makes a big difference on everything in that Big Creek Watershed. That all Ward 1 and Ward 2 goes into Rocky River-Abrams Creek. None of this affects my ward except for the monies being used somewhere besides my ward that's why I don't want to use all the city's cost-share monies on this. The city is going to have to borrow anyway to get this done that was why I said that and understand how this works by going to meetings. By doing both that takes pressure off the Kolleda ditch then Wengler, Doris and Robert, funny it's called the Wengler retention basin when it doesn't really help Wengler. Except for opening up the Kolleda ditch because it stops the water from I-71 and everywhere else by filling those pipes up and then those streets can flow through the Kolleda ditch.

Mr. Piatak interjected that's not exactly true, as far as Wengler goes, looking at the screen, there is a local storm system that comes down Wengler here and meets up at the corner of Shelby and Wengler Drive. If the Wengler basin is put in and hold back all that water in the basin flowing through here; it will allow the Wengler water to pass through more efficiently.

Mr. Troyer interjected yes exactly, that's what I said.

Mr. Piatak interjected you said it wasn't going to help Wengler.

Mr. Troyer continued well, no, in the sense that the Wengler water is not going into the Wengler catch-basin is what I'm saying but will free up the flow to get into the Kolleda ditch flow.

Mr. Piatak wanted to make sure that Councilman Troyer is clear and am not saying one basin, both basins or anything. I was asked to present information as to what the findings are and at the end of the day I feel that the Wedo basin is a more efficient basin due to the larger area and storing more water. That's not to say that Wengler is a bad idea and these are my findings and judgement on what I think and think Wedo is a better one.

Mr. Poindexter commented liked the presentation and think the city should get them both done, if possible. To Mayor Gammella and Mr. Cingle, Council has the feasibility study and presentation on the physical basins would like to get some funding and finance options brought forward in the near future. To see what the options are to pay for these and would like to see them both done, if possible, especially with rates the way they are if the city has to borrow.

Mr. Vecchio thanked Mr. Piatak for the great presentation. To Mayor Gammella to piggy-back off Mr. Poindexter, the numbers that Mr. Piatak provided are 283 homes roughly between both basins. Can we find out of those 283 exactly how many of

**Discussion: cont.**

those would be connection issues that would be the city's responsibility versus those of residents?

Mayor Gammella responded that's an item we've had of discussion even if it meant going door to door and asking people to find out; with COVID-19 makes it harder. I think everyone agrees before the city spends this amount of money we have to be certain, will be certain and going to do it. Not a matter of it just a matter of when and the funding is very important and want to stress it's going to be a series; not one or two there would have to be five of them. Some people, irregardless, are still going to get water because it's really not a sewer issue. Yes, Mr. Chairman, you're asking for an audit of that area and that has been discussed.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, this was discussed.

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

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

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Troyer, for a ten-minute recess.

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

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried at 8:40 p.m.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Troyer, to go back to regular order of business.

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

**NAYS:** None. The motion carried at 8:50 p.m.

2. 2021 APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE BUDGET

Mr. Vecchio brought up the Key Budget points screen for viewing purposes.

Mr. Cingle stated this is the Mayor's budget and will defer to the Mayor for opening comments before going through the key budget points.

Mayor Gammella stated everyone worked hard and diligently on this budget and with the COVID-19 situation money is extremely tight. However, we've been thrifty and it's paid off there are some things that can be done and some things, unfortunately, we won't be able to do that we would all like to do. There will be a robust roads program of over \$3 million-dollars as well as money for flooding. Think it's a very tight budget and want to thank Mr. Cingle, Mr. Healy and Administrative Assistant D'Amico for their hard work.

Mr. Cingle thanked Mr. Vecchio for putting the key budget points up and stated as Council knows all budget discussions begin with the key budget points to utilize and facilitate discussion and brief overview of the current budget. The city began 2021 general fund balance of a little over \$11.4 million-dollars. The 2021 fund balance

**Discussion: cont.**

reserve policy is little bit over \$4,152,000.00. The revenue component the projected general fund revenues for 2021 are approximately \$20.3 million-dollars. The projected income tax revenue for 2021 is \$18.4 million-dollars; decrease of approximately 6.4% from the 2020 actual income tax revenues, nearly \$19.7 million-dollars. Few reasons is the automotive sector is projected down approximately 7.5% lower profit sharing bonus and no buyouts in 2021 for automotive sector. The aeronautic sector which includes NASA as everyone knows is a flat projection for 2021. In the Transportation, Financial Services, Construction and Retail sectors are being forecasted down approximately \$136,000.00 due to Lakefront Lines, PNC Bank, 5/3 bank moving out of the city and the elementary school construction being completed. The IX Center and Emerald Park is being forecasted down nearly \$133,000.00 due to closure of IX Center and lower employment holding receipts from Emerald Park. The city still has an 80/20% income tax split with a little over \$15.8 million-dollars being transferred from the income tax fund to general fund. A little bit over \$2.5 million-dollars will be transferred from the income tax fund to the capital improvement fund. Projected property tax revenue that comes from the county in the general fund for 2021 is a little over \$1.7 million-dollars with actual revenue received in 2020 was a little over \$1.8 million-dollars, decrease of about .5%. The county does usually budget conservatively and would imagine that number coming in a little higher than initially forecasted. Court costs and fines in 2020 equaled \$313,921 and estimated for 2021 at \$467,000, speaking with the police chief is comfortable with that figure. Forecasted parking fee revenue for 2021 is \$341,000.00 with the parking fee revenue continued to be accounted for in the General Fund. Refunds and Reimbursements the city collected little over \$2.3 million-dollars in 2020 with \$1.65 million-dollars received from the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation (BWC) and \$388,000.00 received from Sprint. For a reimbursement for the city's radio system costs incurred in years prior. The projection for 2021 is \$205,000.00 that is a significant decrease from 2020 but those were one-time revenues from BWC and Sprint.

Mr. Mencini stated with the aeronautics was that due to people not working at NASA?

Mr. Cingle responded the department budgeted aeronautics flat due to hearing some discussions that one of a couple of contractors weren't having continued funding with NASA. Working with the Mayor's office to confirm whether that is true or not, haven't seen anything yet on the income tax collections side. So with hearing from sources that a few contractors may not be receiving funding moving forward so budgeted that flat, hopefully information will be coming on that issue in the near future.

Mr. Mencini continued with the 2020 property tax being lower; is that due to people not paying due to COVID-19? Also, mention of the county can you provide more details.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Cingle clarified those figures come from Cuyahoga County Budget Commission that budgets on a conservative basis, as the city does with respect to revenues. That would be one of the reasons for the projected decrease with the other being delinquencies' due to individuals not being able to pay. The head of the budget commission once told me I want you to be happy at the end of the year, again this being a conservative estimate from the budget commission.

Mr. Scott stated to Mr. Cingle is the parking revenue fees down from 2020?

Mr. Cingle concurred.

Mr. Scott asked for a ballpark figure of what the city roughly brings in per year, when things are good.

Mr. Cingle responded over \$900,000.00, nearly \$1 million-dollars.

Mr. Orcutt stated to Mr. Cingle the court costs and fines for 2020 equal \$313,000.00 and change. What was that figure for 2019?

Mr. Cingle responded for 2019 that amount was roughly \$625,000.00.

Mr. Orcutt commented that's significant.

Mr. Cingle continued with expenditures, the 2021 General Fund proposed appropriations including encumbrances is approximately \$27.5 million-dollars. The proposed General Fund transfers are \$400,000.00 to the Economic Development Fund; \$35,000.00 to the Water Park Fund; \$227,453.00 to the General Bond Retirement Fund; \$1,250,000.00 to the 2021 Street Improvements Fund; \$200,000.00 to the Retirees' Accrued Benefits Fund; \$520,000.00 to the Police Pension Fund and \$600,000.00 to the Fire Pension Fund. Total compensation packages are estimated roughly at \$15.8 million-dollars. The Police and Fire departments account for approximately \$10.3 million-dollars of the total proposed General Fund appropriations or 37%. The Service Department accounts for nearly \$4.4 million-dollars of the total proposed General Fund appropriations or roughly 16%. In summary, the projected total General Fund revenues for 2021 are \$20,299,658.00 and the proposed General Fund appropriations including encumbrances for 2021 are \$27,504,277.00. The Fund Balance Reserve Policy is met and the proposed appropriations for Economic Development Fund is \$225,000.00 for Senior Services and \$50,000.00 for the Home Maintenance Assistance Program (HMAP). Mr. Cingle opened for questions and suggested keeping with the General Fund on page one of the estimated/actual revenue, mainly pages one through upper portion of page 10 three-year disbursements and appropriations for 2021. Then move forward to special revenue funds and capital improvement



**Discussion: cont.**

funds.

Mr. Troyer stated on page one, if you could in the revenue add to the Parks and Recreation a line for ADA (American Disabilities Act) or all-inclusive playground equipment. So if something does come in from the Cooper Foundation those monies can be put there and if it is decided to fund a little bit those monies can be put there or if there is a grant. Is that something that could be done?

Mr. Cingle responded yes, that would probably be put in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Mr. Troyer continued would have its own line-item designated for ADA all-inclusive playground equipment.

Mr. Cingle responded, yes would have its own line-item.

Mr. Vecchio showed the estimated revenues on screen with Fund 100 - General Fund.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mayor Gammella will the parking fees be discussed at a later time?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, an Executive Session will be called soon.

Mr. Cingle continued with the three-year disbursements and appropriations and stated the proposed appropriations from the General Fund including encumbrances is approximately \$27.5 million-dollars. Of that there is proposed \$4 million-dollar transfer to the Economic Development Fund and a proposed \$1,250,000.00 transfer to the 2021 Street Improvements Fund. Any questions on pages one through upper portion of page 10 from Council?

Mr. Poindexter requested the departments' wish list items because my questions may be answered with that.

Mr. Scott requested what the Cares Act Fund monies were spent on besides the majority being spent on safety forces salaries.

Mr. Cingle responded the document can be provided.

Mr. Troyer clarified to Mr. Cingle when seeing Regular Salaries most of that uptake is mostly the bonus, correct?

Mr. Cingle concurred.

**Discussion: cont.**

Mr. Troyer continued on page 9, under Fund 700 - General Government Lands & Buildings utilities line item for \$150,000.00 and some other costs such as contracts, repair & maintenance what is the reason for the increase?

Mr. Cingle responded the increase in utilities for the two new schools. Mr. D'Amico reached out to the Board of Education and the city received their utilization with respect to utilities and applied city rates to the utilization; discounted a little bit since the buildings are empty. The appropriation is \$150,000.00 with the majority being spent on the two schools. \$25,000.00 in repair and maintenance the majority was budgeted for the new schools and in the contracts line item is for HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning) monitoring that will be done at the schools as well.

Mr. Troyer continued in Fund 874 - Miscellaneous Executive line-item 323 - Professional Services for \$150,000.00 what is that for?

Mr. Cingle responded that is professional services for union negotiations the city is currently still negotiating with fire department and local 436 and 860 unions.

Mr. Troyer clarified that is the city's legal team, sort of speak.

Mr. Cingle asked if there are any further questions on proposed transfers?

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Cingle for a quick definition of fringe benefits?

Mr. Cingle responded fringe benefits are the employer's portion for Medicare, hospitalization costs, life insurance, vision, dental, and pension.

Mr. Troyer continued to Mayor Gammella with the \$4 million-dollars transfer there will be discussion sometime soon?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, there will be an executive session on that.

Mr. Cingle stated one point on the General Fund if the \$4 million-dollar transfer to the Economic Development Fund and \$1.2 million-dollar transfer to the 2021 Street Improvements. That would reduce the General Fund down roughly \$22.3 million-dollars. When looking at the Actual/Estimated Revenue the projection for this year is \$20.3 million-dollars. So a structural deficit is being shown of roughly \$2 million-dollars that is somewhat concerning to me but the hope is income tax collections will come in a little bit higher than what was budgeted and the city will be able, as usually do, carefully monitor the city expenditures to close that gap. Want to make Council aware that looking at the significant drop in revenue in the General Fund, with respect, to the parking fees, fines and income tax transfers the budget is tight and showing a structural deficit on paper but the hope is the city will be able to close that

**Discussion: cont.**

and won't be as large as what is showing on paper.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Cingle for an explanation of structural deficit, basically the city is spending more than taking in but not spending money the city doesn't have.

Mr. Cingle responded said correctly, on paper the city is showing spending more than bringing in but have fund balances to cover the deficit. On page 10, Fund 240-line item 425-Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair (S.C.M.R.) fund. The funding source for the S.C.M.R. is mainly gasoline tax and motor vehicle license tax. For 2021 the administration is proposing funding three street projects out of Fund 240 and that amount is shown in the construction contracts of a little over \$159,000.00 and also in Professional Services close to \$190,000.00 with a majority of the contracts line item is \$20,500.00 that would be utilized to fund streets: Hummel Road to Shelby Drive resurfacing project, Holland Road to CSX railroad tracks to Michael Drive and Sandhurst Drive from Holland Road to Cambridge Drive. Street Improvements will be funded out of two funds this year; one being Fund 240 and Fund 546.

Mr. Troyer stated Fund 240-line item 511-Regular Salaries how many employees are being funded for that; would that be five?

Mr. Cingle responded five employees.

Mr. Troyer commented would like to see five employees at 40 hours working on those streets.

Mr. Mencini concurred with Mr. Troyer and commented those numbers are very low and crews do a lot of services, absolutely streets are important.

Mr. Cingle continued on page 11, 243-Economic Development Fund-line item 529-Contracts proposed amount of \$275,000.00 breaks down as \$225,000.00 for senior services and \$50,000.00 for HMAP. Also in Fund 243-line item 523-Professional Services the amount of \$85,000.00 is for appraisals and Baldwin-Wallace (BW) Technology Group utilized for technology in the city.

Mr. Mencini stated with HMAP that will only service ten residents?

Mr. Cingle deferred to that question to Mayor Gammella, it will be \$5,000.00 per person or \$2,500.00 per household.

Mayor Gammella responded there will be discussions with Council for their views on the program.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Mencini stated the city tries to do all it can with the seniors but with COVID-19, not meeting on Tuesdays, still using the bus. The money in that fund is there a possibility of transferring if not utilized possibly by the third quarter of the year?

Mr. Cingle responded these dollars will be used for the snow removal and grass cutting programs and the city is seeing increased participation in both programs.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle senior services was basically split in half?

Mr. Cingle responded will provide a breakdown of how much has been spent in years' past; looks like for 2020-2021 snow-removal was about \$103,000.00 and grass cutting roughly \$120,000.00.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mayor Gammella would appreciate a breakdown in writing of all the streets and what the street program is i.e. what section of street, how much of it, what type of repairs or replacement will be done full-depth, etc. Also, more breakdowns of all capital items such as purchasing of police vehicles, cameras, guns, bullet-proof vests, leases what is being spent and what is left for how many more years for police vehicles and rubbish packers.

Mr. Vecchio suggested put a list together and send to the Mayor's office for a comprehensive breakdown for all of Council for next meeting.

Mr. Cingle spoke on the capital side of Transfers starting with Fund 880-Transfers and Refunds-line item 245 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) in the amount of \$126,258.00 is the city's portion for funding of that ambulance; line-item 310-General Bond Retirement Fund in the amount of \$790,156.44 funds the city's outstanding debt, copies of the city's outstanding current debt profile will be provided to Council. Line-item 546 2021 Street Improvement Fund amount of \$850,000.00 transferred to 2021 Street Improvements Fund.

Mr. Mencini asked with Fund 401-line item 110-Council for \$10,000.00 that is for laptops?

Mr. Vecchio responded yes, that is for Council to have their own laptops, software and anything needed to continue jobs and make sure Council is up to speed to be online and viewable.

Mr. Mencini continued with line item 341-Recreation Center's amount of \$86,750.00 is that items needed inside the recreation center, correct?

Mayor Gammella responded correct, brief rundown is the gym floor renovation, waterpark furniture, football goal posts, weight-room accessories, fitness room

**Discussion: cont.**

equipment, mini scoreboard, banquet tables and a few miscellaneous items.

Mr. Mencini continued the building department has a lot of outdated items so in Fund 415 - Building Department that \$78,000.00 would go toward those items. With Funds 412-Police Department what would the \$171,210.71 be for as well as Fund 413-Fire Departments amount of \$137,000.00

Mayor Gammella responded with the Fire Department would be for rescue tools, new hoses and nozzles, bedding, outdated furniture, hydrant repairs, fuel reporting and thing like that. The Police Department will need tasers, ballistic vest replacements, new hire gear, forensic computer, data terminals for vehicles and a jail intercom.

Mr. Poindexter has a list of questions but will wait for the itemized list from the departments. A few questions that not sure are reflected in the budget: To Mayor Gammella is there any funding in this budget for ADA equipment at city parks? Second question is there any funding in the budget to update and rebuild the city's website?

Mayor Gammella responded starting with the latter one first, yes on the website. As far as the ADA funding there is the Cooper Foundation but also Council President Vecchio approached me about a year ago about ADA playground equipment; this will all be incorporated into the central park theme.

Mr. Troyer commented not done talking about capital improvements until list is received with the breakdowns.

Mr. Cingle referred to page 14, Fund 281-Cares Act Fund and stated the city did purchase items with respect to the pandemic i.e. cleaning supplies, masks, Moonbeam equipment cleaner and hired a company to clean city buildings and vehicles. For simplicity purposes the city reported to the State of Ohio Office of Budget and Management and safety force wages for the utilization of Cares Act monies. In 2020 there was \$1,351,386.10 was expended for safety force salaries utilizing Cared dollars. Mr. D'Amico was successful in obtaining funding for Cuyahoga County in the amount of \$64,130.00 so Council will see an expenditure of \$51,111.03 for 2020. There is an encumbrance of \$3,088.47 and an appropriation of \$9,930.50 that will be used for touchless faucets and things of that nature. Had to advance and transfer monies over so the fund didn't go negative for 2020 and once the funding is received from the county the \$64,130.00 back to the General Fund. Will provide Council of the detailed report of the items utilized with this fund incurred last year due to the pandemic. Moving forward to Fund 546 - 2021 Street Improvements Fund proposed appropriation is nearly \$2.1 million-dollars on the sheet I have lists Delores from Paulding to Rademaker; Sylvia from Smith to Mercer; 2021 Crack & Joint Sealing Project and a section of Middlebrook Blvd. in Ward 4 for roughly

**Discussion: cont.**

\$850,000.00 being proposed, that has not been identified to date and construction of Middlebrook Blvd. will be done in phases, Mayor to provide a breakdown.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Cingle what part of Sylvia Drive?

Mr. Orcutt asked Mayor Gammella and the finance department how much time is needed to gather up the requested information?

Mayor Gammella responded probably Monday or Friday, the very least the streets and capital list will be provided Friday.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mayor Gammella for a comprehensive list Council's request at one time, not to piecemeal.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Cingle commented the finance department can have the debt schedules and the senior programs can be sent to the Council office the next day or so. Will finalize the ordinance and send to the Council office to start readings.

Mr. Troyer requested a list of roads being done and how they will be done, where capital items are going. Would like to have that memorialized and exhibited as A, B, C and so forth included with the budget.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mayor Gammella are you planning on holding an executive session prior to the lists requested.

Mayor Gammella responded the executive session has nothing to do with the requested documentation but will be calling an executive session for Tuesday night for a total different topic, with possibly a third coming down.

Mr. Poindexter mentioned have some questions with the \$4 million-dollars to economic development.

Mayor Gammella commented can have the executive session first and think what's going to be said Council will be in agreement with.

Mr. Troyer asked Mayor Gammella if it's possible by Friday to have the lists of capital and roads program?

Mayor Gammella responded yes, definitely.

**Motion** by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, that this was discussed.  
**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Poindexter, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Mencini, Salvatore  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - CHAIRMAN, MENCINI:**

1. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 551 OF THE GENERAL OFFENSES CODE OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK ENTITLED 'CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTY' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella. **In attendance: Building Commissioner Hurst.**

Mr. Hurst stated not sure what took place a year or two ago this legislation was being worked on and don't think it was meant to go to Council; still a work in progress for police enforcement.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to have Read in Committee.  
**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Poindexter, Mencini, Salvatore, Scott, Schmuck, Orcutt  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Scott, to adjourn.  
**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Scott, Schmuck, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore  
**NAYS:** None. The motion carried.

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *April 13, 2021*

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

