

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE CAUCUS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 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 Mayor Gammella, Finance Director Cingle, Assistant Finance Director Healy and Law Director Horvath.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Mencini, to go into Executive Session for Purchase of Property.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried at 7:02 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to go back in to Executive Session for Personnel Matters.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried at 7:42 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to go back to the Regular Order of Business.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried at 7:46 p.m.

During roll call Mr. Mencini commented not on agenda but yes.

DISCUSSION:

1. 2021 APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE BUDGET

Mr. Cingle stated on page one of the three-year appropriations Fund 211-line 520 Municipal Court there is a change from \$0.00 to \$21,243.00. Reason for the change is Berea Municipal Court, Ray Wohl, went over the shortfall the court ran in 2020. In 2020 the court brought in a little over \$1.3 million-dollars and expenditures being a little bit over \$1,576,000.00, leaving a shortfall of \$276,173.00. The city of Brook Park's portion of that shortfall is \$21,243.00 that is due back to Berea Municipal Court.

Mr. Vecchio stated hearing about this last night this is shared expense of multiple cities; Brook Park, Middleburg Heights and Strongsville portion to pay.

Mr. Cingle concurred and mentioned Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, Strongsville, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township and Berea. The portion of the loss covered by the City of Berea is \$181,640.00. That is one change that changes the total general fund appropriations on page 10, encumbrance stays the same at

Discussion: cont.

\$298,171.14 with the general fund appropriation being \$27,227,349.32. The second change is on page 11 Fund 248 CDBG fund - line item 552 - Equipment. When going through putting the numbers together realized the ambulance being purchased this year was not appropriated with \$150,000.00 coming from the CDBG (County Development Block Grant Fund) and a transfer of \$126,258.00 that is in the budget. That would change the total amount appropriated to \$63,209,540.83. Those were the changes and Council received today the proposed 2021 Roads Program and the proposed capital improvement purchases by department.

Mr. Troyer stated unhappy with a couple of things here, to the Mayor the capital is just by department and need a little more itemized what is going to certain things. With the gym floor renovations is that something that is the city is going to do but never gets done, seems like it's always on there. We talked about Sandhurst Drive going all the way to Harrow Drive but according to the sheet it's only Cambridge, ward one is getting the short end of the stick which I understand in some respects. To do half a street when it's a much needed street and a traffic street also. Is that going to be changed and thought it would be changed on this list.

Mayor Gammella responded right now it's not going to be changed because that's all the money we have, we have to run the city on 2% tax that's what we're doing. I agree I'd like to finish that street up in the future if we can but right now that's what we have. As far as the gym floor it's on there and we've had issues with the gym floor because of the leaks with the roof and things of that nature, that have been alleviated.

Mr. Troyer commented capital needs to be more itemized so we know exactly what we're getting. Would also like to have the roads accordingly more itemized in the budget. Also this capital too once its itemized being adjusted. There is plenty of money in the budget to do another couple of \$100,000.00 to get Sandhurst done. Based on the cost of this street and what's being done it wouldn't cost obviously \$319 I believe it was so it wouldn't be more than another \$300 and have that money in the S.C.M.R. (Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair) fund and other funds. We have the money to do it, ward one is getting shortchanged and would hope my fellow Councilman at Large that also represents ward one would stand up and work with me to get these monies wherever you want to take them from; put in the right spot and get all of Sandhurst, at least, up to Harrow Drive reconditioned for the residents that is needed so badly. Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle would that S.C.M.R. be enough to take \$200,000.00 or \$300,000.00 out or do you suggest another fund?

Mr. Cingle responded will have to look into that and see.

Discussion: cont.

Mayor Gammella commented had a conversation with Mr. Troyer about this a few days ago and do have the engineer looking into what it would cost to complete Sandhurst. If the engineer were here don't think, he would have answer.

Mr. Poindexter stated would like to go on record to say I would like to see the Mayor, if possible, finish that street. That street connects the south end of Brook Park to the city's central area. With all the additions the city is going to be doing to the central park think it would make the south end residents to the area easier and more enjoyable. If we could find in our budget to do that little bit of extra road to complete the whole street would make a big difference and would definitely support.

Mayor Gammella reiterated did speak with Mr. Troyer about this and again what we have to look at with the engineer is what is right for the whole street. Delores Blvd. definitely needs it as parts of Sylvia Drive, Hummel Road, Middlebrook Blvd. We could spend a lot more but just spend what we can do and will continue that but will keep Sandhurst on the radar definitely.

Mr. Poindexter commented don't dispute looking at the list every street on the list needs work. The way I see it working in construction with every project there is a mobilization. If we're already doing the work and mobilizing the area may get more bang out of the buck with them being there. It doesn't quite double the size of the project now and would get it for, in my opinion, less than double of the price being paid and possibly more value. Would like to see what the engineer comes back with and hopefully make it work.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Cingle going a little different on the capital. Understand department heads, Council, Mayor's Court, Recreation Center and Parks & Playgrounds, look to see what is needed. Using Council figure of \$10,000.00 for laptops don't know the cost since they are not ordered yet so an estimate of \$10,000.00 is made. What I would like to see is near the end of 2021 on the capital sheets is exactly what the laptops cost. For Mayor's Court what the drop box cost compared to the \$1,000.00 allocated. With the gym floor renovations, I know the floor needs to be done but at the end of the year have the department heads go through each capital item listed showing the exact cost. Mr. Mencini continued when receiving the street list wasn't thrilled seeing Sylvia Drive to Mercer it has to go Smith to Michael Drive. Then when seeing Delores from Paulding to Rademaker I'll be more than honest and think Delores covers three wards I think the whole street could be done. My question to the finance director did we allocate all the money that we could in this budget for the roads program, for the reconstruction projects?

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Cingle responded unless Council wants to completely deplete the S.C.M.R. fund then yes.

Mr. Troyer stated stop the nonsense there is money to do this little bit of roads, there is money. I mean I don't want to have this argument if you guys want to have this argument I will. It's in S.C.M.R if that's what we want to do we have \$4 million-dollars for economic development and could take a couple \$100,000.00 out of that. There is money if you really want to get down to money I can start pointing out where all the money is, don't think you guys want that.

Mr. Vecchio commented listen we're just going through stuff, I mean, we don't need to make this contentious there is no reason.

Mr. Orcutt suggested there's been some new information given to Council this evening and think we have a little bit of work to do as a team, behind the scenes and work on this budget a little more. Some very good points put out by the finance director and Council colleagues. Can do this here or go back and crunch numbers, have committee meetings and find exactly what can be done to help all the residents.

Mr. Troyer stated with the capital list not sure if the finance director is aware of what everything costs but would like to go down the list for costs that Council received this afternoon. With the Mayor's court drop box is that for dropping off payments for fines.

Mayor Gammella concurred.

Mr. Troyer asked what kind of cost for the gym floor renovations; major or touch up?

Mayor Gammella responded going to be pretty major and will have the recreation director call you.

Mr. Salvatore stated if we're going line item by line item for a cost of everything why don't we request that and have it sent over to Council for discussion. To sit here and talk about these items could be here all night. Provide an itemized list of the expenditures and do the math ourselves for the next meeting.

Mr. Troyer stated if the Councilman at large would guarantee we will get those numbers I'd say yes I'm fine but I asked for those numbers in the first place and don't have them here tonight.

Discussion: cont.

Mayor Gammella interjected you do have them here they are in front of you.

Mr. Vecchio stated what he's asking for Mayor is on each of those items to have comprehensively broken down by what the number is for the gym floor, what the number is for the other items.

Mayor Gammella stated that's fine but will take some time to pull together, not something we'll be able to have tomorrow, will start working on it tomorrow first thing.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mayor Gammella make sure we go down this list and get it broken down that way there aren't any questions and emailed to Council.

Mayor Gammella responded as soon as I can.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Cingle the construction at the water park will be done this year. Don't know where to find the appropriation is for that project.

Mr. Cingle responded that was already encumbered on page 14 Fund 401 - line item 342 - Parks & Playgrounds \$190,242.00, the actual waterpark amount is \$181,413.00 that was already encumbered in 2020.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle with the actual estimated and revenue the \$3.6 million-dollars the city is getting from the federal government will be put in here, correct?

Mr. Cingle responded as soon as the city gets definitive word on the amount the city is going to receive it will be included but still working through. If there are going to be any type of restrictions on what the monies are going to be able to be spent on. There has been a preliminary worksheet submitted that what each city will receive but until the monies deposited we're going to wait until everything is finalized.

Mr. Troyer asked when will that be?

Mr. Cingle continued I think that money is going to be restricted for certain purposes.

Mr. Troyer asked kind of like the last time.

Mr. Cingle concurred.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Cingle when do you think we will get that information?

Mr. Cingle responded would hope within the next 30 to 60 days.

Mr. Troyer continued Actual/Estimated Revenue needs to be in this budget what that estimated revenue is going to be; it's just estimated never right. Council is passing the budget that money is expected at least a large portion of it and should be memorialized in the budget, in the revenue and in a safe place.

Mr. Cingle stated the issue is I'm not sure where to put it because if it's restricted for let's say sewer improvements, wages or HVAC improvements those monies could go into two or three different funds. Again, I know there is a worksheet that has been sent out and as soon as everything is finalized, we know what the restrictions are, we'll bring it back to Council and place in the budget when ready to expend the funds.

Mr. Vecchio asked Mr. Cingle that worksheet has to go through both federal and state before it even gets back to the city?

Mr. Cingle responded not sure but working with the federal government I'd be cautious until everything is finalized, we're not going to appropriate the monies right now.

Mr. Troyer stated sure, absolutely. Again it's revenue that's expected estimated and sure can be put somewhere. Of course won't be appropriated because nothing is guaranteed. This is the way the budget works estimate low for revenues and estimate high for costs. That's how it's done and the way you just described if this would be done and not the way it was done last year. Which is why I'm so adamant on getting this in this budget, showing that \$3.6 million-dollars, expected estimated revenue and have it come in and tucked away in a nice little spot under Council's control, if it comes to fruition.

Mayor Gammella stated as you know we have this entrant rule that's going before the courts. The people that have been working out of the city let's say, for instance, from one of the city's big corporations. If this does not go in our favor and other cities favor and this money has to be refunded that we've already spent; the city is going to need that \$3.6 million-dollars, just for a point of information.

Mr. Cingle responded to Mr. Troyer last comment when he said it wasn't done this way last year with the U.S. Treasury monies. We received those dollars after the budget was approved. We received the dollars, we created the fund and put the monies into that fund. Then we worked through the year those dollars were

Discussion: cont.

heavily restricted initially. As we were working through what expenditures could be utilized those funds for, with respect to the pandemic. We accounted for those dollars and then in October or November last year, little earlier than that, we were advised that those dollars could be used for safety personnel wages, that's what we did. I'm not sure what Mr. Troyer's comment is referencing there but we didn't have the monies when the budget was approved; similar to today we don't have these dollars. We have a worksheet that says this is what can be expected to receive but these dollars could go to two, three or four different funds. I appreciate the Mayor bringing up the occasional entrant rule and want to go back to Mr. Mencini's point about the roads. If Council wants to deplete the majority of the funds and go into the admissions tax fund and hotel-motel tax fund certainly you could do more roads. But, we also have potentially a very large refund looming out there for all these individuals that aren't working in Brook Park right now, through that occasional entrant rule, so I would be cautious as well. Plus, on paper we're showing a \$2 million-dollar structural deficit in the general fund there is a lot of uncertainty out there.

Mr. Troyer commented we also carried over \$2.66 million dollars from last year to this year; structural deficit is not a great thing but when you can do a lot of capital improvements with it; it is a great thing to use it. That's not every year but since being on Council we have always done it that way. Once we get a big pot we go ahead and do a bunch of roads and that is almost every time that I've done it required us to have a structural deficit. Even though it's not the greatest thing it is a great thing when doing for capital improvements, to help the residents. I've said my peace and think that \$3.6 should be shown in the estimated revenues because we're going to get something and think people on Sandhurst deserve more than just a half a street getting done.

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

Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Vecchio to poll Council for a possible special meeting.

Mr. Vecchio commented I was going to propose that we do Tuesday, March 23rd special Caucus meeting at 7:00 p.m. to go over everything.

Mr. Troyer stated I'd say we just schedule extra meetings not make them special meetings.

Mr. Vecchio responded whichever they are I don't think it matters either way.

Mr. Troyer commented yes, it does, makes a difference.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Vecchio commented for you it does but I'm saying it doesn't matter either way.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, that item number one was discussed.

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

Mr. Vecchio scheduled a special Caucus meeting for the budget to be held on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m., calling the meeting now and will put it in writing.

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

Mr. Troyer - Point of Order.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer - at a meeting Council by a majority vote would schedule another meeting.

Mr. Vecchio - your point is not on anything we're at the moment, sir, so let's not every worry about the meeting it's been called.

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

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Caucus Prior to

March 16, 2021

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, for a five-minute recess prior to beginning the Council meeting.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore
NAYS: None. The motion carried at 8:22 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Michelle Blazak
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.

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