

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:30 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

**SCOTT, SCHMUCK, ORCUTT, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE**

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

Noted: Mayor Gammella was not in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

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

Mr. Scott asked if the amendments were properly approved?

The clerk responded I didn't receive any amendments.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to approve.

Mr. Salvatore stated who asked for the amendments?

Mr. Vecchio responded originally Mr. Troyer.

Mr. Salvatore asked Mr. Troyer for the amendments.

Mr. Troyer responded I emailed or texted, and replied that at the top of page 10 the motions are out of order.

Mr. Salvatore stated I heard what Mr. Troyer said but also see the clerk shaking her head no. Can this get straightened out in order to approve the minutes. Do you have an amendment?

Mr. Troyer commented it is not my job to do the minutes they just need to be looked at and done correctly.

Mr. Vecchio commented to Mr. Troyer, he's not asking if it's your job all that's being asked is if you have your amendment(s)?

Mr. Scott commented number three is misplaced.

Mr. Scott **rescinded** his motion, Mr. Poindexter **rescinded** support.

**Approval of minutes of preceding meetings: cont.**

Clerk found the problem with the minutes and will correct accordingly.

**Motion** by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to place on the January 19, 2021 Council agenda with amendments.

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

2. Regular Council meeting held on November 17, 2020.

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

Mr. Troyer stated Point of clarification, Council is approving the minutes as presented; not the meeting?

Mr. Vecchio responded the Caucus Prior to meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Troyer stated thank you.

Mr. Mencini commented grow up.

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

3. Regular Council meeting held on December 8, 2020.

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

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

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:****Aviation & Environmental Committee - Chairwoman, Schmuck**

Mrs. Schmuck reported the Aviation & Environmental committee has nothing on tonight's agenda, wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season and outstanding year for 2021.

**Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott**

Mr. Scott reported the Finance committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. Since last report the Board of Control met on December 28, 2020 and earlier today with masks and proper social distancing maintained. The Board of Control approved eight items on December 28<sup>th</sup> with the three largest being the cost-sharing agreement with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for Wedo-Wengler basin feasibility study in the amount of \$33,800.00; Euthenics Engineering services through November in the amount of \$12,675.00 and third largest was to Zashin & Rich for November negotiations in the amount of \$9,249.80. The Board of Control met earlier today approving 23 items with the three largest items being Compass Minerals America, Inc. for road salt in the amount of \$100,000.00; City of Strongsville dispatch services from 1-1-21 to 12-31-21 in the amount of \$584,271.96 and E-Government Finance, Inc. for lease of the rubbish packers and sewer vector, fifth year of a seven-

**Reports of standing committees: cont.**

year lease, in the amount of \$142,827.25.

Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Scott was the \$33,800.00 feasibility study for flooding does that complete the total cost for that feasibility study?

Mr. Scott responded if I'm not mistaken it does but Mr. Cingle could probably elaborate on that.

Mr. Orcutt commented that should complete that study and it's all paid for and completed. The other question is with \$100,000.00 for road salt what was the next item after road salt?

Mr. Scott responded dispatch services to the City of Strongsville for 1-1-21 through 12-31-21 in the amount of \$584,271.96.

**Legislative Committee - Chairman, Mencini**

Mr. Mencini stated hoped everyone had a good holiday and new year, the legislative committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. Many items are in committee if anything is to be pulled out let me know.

**Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Poindexter**

Mr. Poindexter reported Parks & Recreation committee has one item on tonight's agenda under second reading and the committee respectfully requests Council's passage under suspension for grant monies. The deadline date is Friday and speaking with Recreation Director Elliott the recreation staff would like to have all paperwork turned into the county by Thursday. High-school basketball began this evening at the recreation center with all other age groups starting this coming Saturday. Strict social distancing stipulations will be put in place with only a certain number of spectators per team allowed to watch with signups at the desk. The committee was hoping to get the livestream of the games started this weekend but after speaking with Recreation Director Elliott the earliest would be next Saturday, due to delays in shipping of parts. Wanted to have the Mayor announce this but since he is not in attendance I will announce that included in the state budget for 2021. There is an allocation of \$100,000.00 for Brook Park's amphitheater for the city park. Want to thank Recreation Director Elliott, Mayor Gammella and most importantly thank you to State Representative, Bride Sweeney, for all her hard work. Representative Sweeney fought hard for this grant and also grants for other cities for their parks improvements. Happy New Year.

Mr. Salvatore asked Mr. Poindexter with the livestreaming for basketball is there a system in place as to how people can watch the livestream? Will people go on the city's website and click on recreation and follow the steps?

Mr. Poindexter responded there will be a link, similar to the Council livestreams, not

**Reports of standing committees: cont.**

sure if it will be directly on the home page or recreation center tab, not sure of all those details.

**Planning Committee - Chairman, Orcutt**

Mr. Orcutt reported the Planning commission has not met since last report.

**Safety Committee - Chairman Troyer**

Mr. Troyer reported the safety committee has nothing in committee or on tonight's agenda. With the blue and red lights on houses they show support for police and fire. The blue light shows support for police officers and the red light shows support for firefighters; this is a great idea and urge everyone to put out a blue and red light.

**Service Committee - Chairman, Salvatore**

Mr. Salvatore reported the service committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. On behalf of the service committee and service department wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, safe and prosperous New Year.

**Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Mencini**

Mr. Mencini reported the Board of Zoning has not had a meeting for January, the next meeting, if any items come forward, will be February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Mr. Orcutt reported the Southwest Board of Trustees has not met since last report. Would like to state that people can now join medical experts from Southwest General by visiting southwestgeneral.com and click on the health talk podcast. At that point, people will be able to select different medical topics that shed light on current health, talks about basic health advice on both worry-some and private issues. Another announcement is, Oakview now offers tele-help and this is a very respectful and compassionate mental health service offering a broad range of programs. Designed to provide patients with dignified care and compassion needed to improve their quality of life and ability to function. Non-emergency assessments can be scheduled by calling 440-816-8200.

**Berea Board of Education Representative, Mencini**

Mr. Mencini reported school resumed on January 4<sup>th</sup> this week by remote learning that will continue until January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Sixth and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will return on January 11<sup>th</sup> with Fridays still being remote learning. Pre-K through fifth grade will return to the classrooms on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The end of the semester for grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> will be January 21<sup>st</sup>. At the end of last year school, the board treasurer and CFO, Jill Rowe, gave a five-year report that can be found on the school board website. A little information is 78% of the revenue the schools receive are from taxes; 12% from the State of Ohio and 10% comes from other sources.

**Technology and Innovation Council Representative - Poindexter.**

Mr. Poindexter read a letter from Chairman, Tom Dufour, into the record: To The Council, Department Heads, and Mayor Gammella: As the City and our Technology and Innovation Committee embark into 2021, I felt it necessary at the outset of the

Reports of Special Committees:Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Poindexter: cont.

new calendar year to formally update the council and the administration on what our committee has worked on during our first six months of existence. As you know, we initiated our operations in March, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't truly able to get off the ground until June. However, in the past six months, we've discussed and moved forward on several cutting-edge items that we believe will significantly benefit our City. We've been working with the Recreation Commission and Department on expanding live-streaming capabilities to youth sports and other community classes and events. We've been exploring the practicality, cost-efficiency and putting together research on other cities' implementation of electric vehicles for municipal uses. And we've also built a partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation's DriveOhio initiative to explore the integration of smart transportation technology into our City's infrastructure and transportation offerings. Additionally, in our meetings, we've touched upon: What we can do to help the city run efficiently and safely during the global pandemic, and how we can assist departments and officials in keeping operations running smoothly Promoting the adoption and recommendation of various smart technologies for the improvement of quality of life for our seniors. The implementation of municipal green energy generation in with collaboration with ODOT and Cleveland Hopkins Airport Cybersecurity measures alongside a city-wide technology audit, a digital 411 service for residents, an online welcome kit for new residents featuring relevant local and regional information. As well as, recommended technologies from existing municipal partnerships (Ring Doorbells, for example) smart- park and micro-park development The potential for a city-wide, Aerozone-wide, or even county-wide open data initiative. Exploration of collaboration with Google for fiber internet service, or Elon Musk's Starlink for satellite-based internet access, in addition to research into the potential utilization of "dark fiber". Exploring additional useful features for the city website based on research from other municipal websites and potential partnerships for municipal broadband service in public spaces. While it's evident that we've been incredibly active these past six months, rest assured that while some of the conversations we're having are bleeding-edge, we're also implicitly aware that practicality has to be a component of anything we bring forward to council. While some might say some of our topics are abstract, some of our conversations about far ahead-of-the-curve concepts have spawned discussions and research into new and innovative ideas that could benefit the City in the near term. For that reason, we've dedicated ourselves to putting everything on the table. Conversation and exploration are inherent to innovation. Let me say in closing that none of this would be possible without the most incredible committee that anyone could ever ask for. Holly Klingler and James Pressley's contributions to this committee's inaugural success are tough to put into a combination of words that would do their work justice. Their experience, intelligence, thoughtfulness, dedication, and overall ability have consistently brought forward ideas and solutions that are shaping the trajectory of everything we touch month in

Reports of Special Committees:Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Poindexter: cont.

and month out in a way that likely makes it hard to believe we've worked on so much in such little time. I'm truly honored to be a part of this committee alongside them. I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we look forward to working with Councilman Poindexter, Mayor Gammella, and the rest of the Council in 2021 as we further work to recommend other programs and innovations which would be of benefit to the City. Sincerely, Thomas Dufour, Chair, Technology and Innovation Committee. Mr. Poindexter commented little wordy but think it hits highlights of what the committee's been working on, some of the ideas are kind of futuristic thinking but in discussing some of those we inch towards the future slowly but surely, can stand behind the letter that the committee has really taken hold. In addition, to the letter the committee met yesterday to follow-up on some tasks left over from 2020 and to get an outlook of where the committee is heading, moving forward. Wasn't in attendance but the committee discussed some of the follow-up items for DriveOhio that the Mayor and committee discussed of potential testing locations that can be possibly identified and send to DriveOhio to market Brook Park to some of the testing companies to see what is available. 2021 will be action-packed year and expect good things coming out of the Technology committee this year.

Mr. Mencini thanked Mr. Poindexter for the very good report, the technology committee works very hard putting a lot of time and energy into it. Obviously, this community has a lot of needs and don't know where the end lies with COVID-19. One suggestion being on a lot of committees and organizations is when stuff comes out possibly the committee could bring a cost-factor on how to pay for some of these items. There are lot of items that coincide with a lot of the needs the city has currently so that Council and the residents could be more at ease knowing where some of the funds may come from or revenue come from.

Mr. Poindexter responded the committee does take cost-savings into account due to that being one of the main reasons the committee was formed. With these technologies while there is an upfront cost to a lot of them it will save monies in the long run or highlight the city in such a way that the cost outweighs the reward. For example, the committee is looking to bring WI-FI to the city campus and yes there is an initial cost startup for that. There will be two separate packages for Council's consideration and can choose either one, both, none or a combination. There will be costs associated with each proposal when coming forward; with one the city will save money but the capabilities may not be that good and with the other there is more coverage but a higher cost. The committee is very aware of costs and a lot of this is to keep costs under control and also give added benefits to the residents.

Mrs. Schmuck stated to Mr. Poindexter so proud of this committee with all they have done in the small amount of time available and everything the committee has come

Reports of Special Committees:

Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Poindexter: Comments: up with and proud of the committee's forward thinking. Thank you for bringing everything forward the committee is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Poindexter thanked Mrs. Schmuck for the kind words, and commented the committee members have several different messaging apps for communication and the committee members are up all hours of the night reading and are very proactive working around the clock to make Brook Park better.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:****INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:****REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:****REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**Finance Director Cingle

Mr. Cingle wished everyone Happy New Year and reported today the department filed the second report required to the Ohio Budget & Management Office (OBM) to be in compliance with that filing. Also the department is working on closing fiscal year 2020 and continuing to work on the 2021 budget. Speaking with the Mayor's executive assistant today he is requesting capital improvement items from department heads and hopes to have those back next week. Also, the department is gearing up for tax season. Just a point of clarification under Finance Chairman Scott's report the Wedo-Wengler basin feasibility study has been billed and paid at 10% completion; the entire amount of the study has not been paid to date due to not being billed at 100% completion.

Recreation Director Elliott:

Mr. Elliott stated the recreation department wishes everyone to have a safe, healthy and happy new year. Mr. Elliott stated to Mr. Salvatore to follow-up on your question to Recreation Chairman Poindexter regarding the streaming of the basketball games. It is most likely that will begin next Saturday and is very similar to the system that Council streams their meetings each week. When people want to watch a recreation event i.e. basketball game people can go to the city's website and click on the recreation page. There are three links working through BoxCast with step by step instructions. There will be three games going on at any one time with two cameras in the main gymnasium and one in the mini-gym. Once the games are played those weekend games will be saved for viewing at a later date. The department is very happy for the grant for the amphitheater and ask Council's consideration for the grant for central park improvements on tonight's agenda to be forwarded to county representatives prior to the deadline date of Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Reports and communications from other departments, commissions, public officials: cont.****Law Director Horvath**

Mrs. Horvath stated the law department wishes everyone a happy new year. It was my intention to present Council with the list of pending civil cases but pulled back due to three cases having some changes; none of the changes reflect on the one major case of the city.

**Service Director Garner:**

Mr. Garner on behalf of the service department wishing everyone a happy new year and thank the service director employees for giving up their Christmas holiday to spend countless hours plowing and salting city streets that went very well.

**Engineer Piatak**

Mr. Piatak wished everyone a happy new year.

**Questions to Directors:**

Mr. Troyer stated to Mrs. Horvath I believe you were referring to the west-end Cleveland Airport lawsuit, nothing new?

Mrs. Horvath responded correct, currently status-quo.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Garner hats-off to the service crews for working Christmas Eve and Christmas. They did a good job under the circumstances of being on a holiday and kudos to the crews. To Mr. Cingle has there been any discussions with the budget about doing a roads program and how much?

Mr. Cingle responded to date no, as stated in my report the Mayor's assistant has requested from department heads capital improvement item requests. After review, hopefully next week we can start paring down the list for determination of what can be allocated towards roads and other projects i.e. sewer or other projects that may be undertaken in 2021.

Mr. Troyer commented like the fact looking into capital instead of waiting. When can Council expect the rough budget be given to the Mayor?

Mr. Cingle responded would hope by the end of January, not going to put a firm date on it. But there are a lot of projects that will be looked at this year, along with some union contracts that need to be worked through. Hope is to have to Mayor by month-end and bring to Council in early February.

Mr. Troyer continued with the Wedo basin feasibility report the city paid 10% which is 10% of the original amount or is that an additional 10%?

Mr. Cingle responded the dollar amount of the study that Council approved is \$33,800.00 and 10% was billed on the engineer's last invoice; 90% still remains to



**Questions to Directors: cont.**

be billed.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle Euthenics hasn't billed for the 90% to date, correct?

Mr. Cingle concurred.

Mr. Orcutt stated to Mr. Cingle with the \$33,800.00 paid to Euthenics and only 10% being paid for the feasibility study. There is only 10% billed but Council approved \$33,800.00 so the city is waiting to be billed and then payment can be given, correct?

Mr. Cingle responded under Ordinance No. 11164-2020, Council authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for the Wedo-Wengler basin feasibility study. The engineer has billed 10% of that and if the remaining balance is billed all at once and approved by the Board of Control, payment will be made shortly thereafter.

Mr. Orcutt stated to Mr. Piatak what is the estimated time for the rest of the billing on feasibility study?

Mr. Piatak responded most likely 100% of the report will be included in the December invoice. If not there would be a certain percentage up to probably 95% and hold onto 5% for any revisions or things of that nature. The bulk of the remaining balance will be invoiced in December; due to holidays both invoices haven't gone out to date.

Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Piatak how far that does it take to do that billing i.e. 30 days, 60 days, 90 days?

Mr. Piatak responded hope to have December invoices by week's end or early next week.

Mr. Orcutt commented to Mr. Vecchio as soon as that is approved I think Council as a Whole should put together a Special Caucus or Council meeting; however, it needs to be done to move forward with this presentation for the flooding feasibility study. It's been a year since the major flooding in May, 2020 and think it's something that needs to move forward as soon as possible.

Mr. Vecchio stated will make a note of that and have the Mayor's office contact Council when the preparations are ready for that, along with the engineer.

Mr. Poindexter commented would like to see the study before approval of the funding. Council was supposed to have the report a few weeks ago and now there is

**Questions to Directors: cont.**

talk about payment without even seeing the results, would like to see results and then worry about the invoices at a later date.

Mr. Troyer stated Point of clarification.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer continued to answer Mr. Poindexter's request I saw the report briefly the other day and asked for it under a public records request. Was told that since it's not paid for we can't get it yet; that's the reason for questions on whether it's paid for yet. Also, at this time I am asking the engineer and law director under a public records request to provide that report as soon as available. Under a public records request I am requesting that all of Council get the Wedo basin feasibility report as soon as available.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Garner service crews did a great job with snow removal through the holidays. If there is a major snowstorm with bulk pickup coming up will the department be prepared?

Mr. Garner responded yes, the snow will be prioritized along with pick up of bulk as crews can do it.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Elliott how are the signups going, are there new memberships?

Mr. Elliott responded there are some faces but also the winter programs are starting and that is the busiest part of what the department is doing right now, definitely has picked up.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Cingle with the budget one thing I think we need to start doing is doing things more accurately, getting things done sooner so everything isn't last minute. This is not only to you but also to the Council and Administration to be more precise to get things done sooner. Hoping the budget comes mid-February, as stated, so it's not last minute and having special meetings at the end of March to get things done.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mr. Cingle touching a little on the budget talks, there was no conversation about any roads program. Would like you to relate that to the Mayor and yourself to see a budget that has some kind of roads program and money available. I can't see myself supporting a budget with no roads program.

**Questions to Directors: cont.**

Mr. Troyer stated Point of clarification.

Mr. Vecchio recognized.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Salvatore I did mention a roads program during that session.

Mr. Salvatore commented was referring to Mr. Cingle and saying there wasn't any monies available for roads, at this time, there was no discussion. Several Councilmembers have been looking for a roads program and talking to almost all of Council most of us are on the same page in that area.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:**

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:**

Elizabeth Sayers

23065 Cedar Point Road

Ms. Sayers asked when her public records request from over a year ago will be received?

Mrs. Horvath responded my understanding is that pertained to records concerning the recreation center building and various operating systems. The request was not made directly to the law department; I think it was made to the Mayor's office. I thought it had been complied with if not fully then partially. Mr. Elliott may have some knowledge of the status of the request, if not, I will find out and respond to Ms. Sayers.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: FIRST READING:**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 24-2020, SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CUYAHOGA DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2021 CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BROOK PARK CENTRAL PARK AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT ANY AWARDED GRANT FUNDS AND FILE ALL DOCUMENTS AND EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE ANY AWARDED GRANT FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Gammella.

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

Mr. Troyer stated this is important and due by Friday.

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

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Orcutt, to adopt.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Orcutt, Schmuck, Scott, Salvatore, Poindexter, Troyer  
**NAYS:** None. Resolution No. 24-2020, has passed under Suspension of the Rules. Adopted.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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

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

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*  
Michelle Blazak  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *January 19, 2021*

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