

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022  
7:49 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:49 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

**SCOTT, ROBERTS, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE**

Also in attendance were Mayor Orcutt, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:**

1. CAUCUS PRIOR TO MEETING MINUTES HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2022.
2. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2022.
3. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

**Motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Scott, to approve minutes in mass.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Coyne, Roberts, Poindexter,

**NAYS:** Troyer. The motion was approved.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Aviation & Environmental Committee – Chairman, Poindexter None

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott

Mr. Scott reported that the January 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Control meeting had 32 items presented for approval. The three (3) largest items were:

1. Constructions Resources INC. Road Study for Community Center.  
Ordinance 11233-2021 for \$171,000.00.
2. Key Government Financing Corp. Lease of Rubbish Packers & Sewer  
Vector, 6<sup>th</sup> year of 7year lease for \$ 142,827.25.
3. City of Strongsville Dispatch Services from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022  
for \$635,004.00.

Legislative Committee - Chairwoman, Coyne

Madame Coyne stated to pull all of her legislation out of Committee and place them on the next Caucus meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported Parks & Recreation is in week three (3) of the basketball program which has been very successful.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES: cont.**

Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairman, Mencini: cont.

The Recreation Commission meeting is open to the public and will be held Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.

Planning Committee - Chairman, Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported that the Planning Committee met on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Homeowners, Thomas & Tamara Card received an esthetic approval to add a front porch to their unconstructed home.

Safety Committee - Chairman, Roberts

Mr. Roberts reported that he reached out to Chief Dickle and Captain Powers to meet with them. The Neighborhood Watch meeting for January 24<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> at the library. If the Library is still closed to the public, then the meeting will be rescheduled at another location.

Service Committee - Chairman, Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter thanked the Service Department for clearing the roads during the snowstorm yesterday.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman, Salvatore

Mr. Salvatore reported that there were three (3) items in the first Board of Zoning of the year:

1. Property on Calvin Dr. requesting a front porch which was denied.
2. A two-and-a-half-foot variance for a shed to the rear property line on Smith Road which was approved.
3. A fence to be installed on 150<sup>th</sup> which was tabled for a later date.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Southwest General Health Center Trustee, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported on his visit to Southwest Hospital and related Covid restrictions. All visitors must wear masks. Patients being discharged will be discharged from Building B off the main campus.

January 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a screen & wellness clinic called Park Fit from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the South Park Mall an event sponsored by South Park Mall and Southwest General this will take place on the third Thursday of every month.

On the same date (January 18<sup>th</sup>), the Parkman Speakers Series is a Community Nurse program at Southwest Library sponsored by South Park Mall and Southwest General. It's a free health program at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend.



**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: cont.**

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Mencini about the Southwest Emergency room being closed and if Mr. Mencini could get information to report to The Council.

**Berea Board of Education Representative, Coyne**

Madame Coyne reported that she spoke with the Assistant Superintendent and the school board meeting are held at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays which presents a conflict. Madame Coyne will attend school board meetings when Council meetings are not in session. Madame Coyne will get information concerning live stream school board meetings in order to catch up. Madame Coyne will also meet with Christy Dougman to explore other ways to get involved i.e. PTA or other meetings.

**Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Poindexter**

Mr. Poindexter reported the Technology & Innovation Council met on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Guest, Jeff Duke from Park Resident & Northeast Ohio Sewer District presented the committee with various data collection software and items he built for the sewer district and uses. Mr. Duke shared with the committee how the city can use this software to help the City of Brook Park in various ways. Additionally, he presented opportunities to the Committee to build a database to track inventory including tracking trash collection routes to crime statistics using one data software system. Furthermore, the committee discussed the EV chartization and potential locations which has not been finalized.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Orcutt reported that Patrolman, Brian Kelly will be retiring from the police department at the end of the month of January. Patrolman Kelly began his career with the City of Brook Park on May 4, 1998. Mayor Orcutt thanked Patrolman Kelly for his service to the community and service for our country as Brian Kelly also served in the United States Army.

Mayor Orcutt thanked the Service Department for having to deal with a snowstorm that the Airport reported resulted in sixteen (16) inches of snow. The Service Department had a grade of 'A+' in the county.

Update on the Super8 Hotel, the sale contract has been signed by both the city and the owner of the Hotel. The Maximum Title Agency is preparing the documents to send over to Cuyahoga County for the deed transfer.

Lastly, Mayor Orcutt stated that everyone on the committee he formed to address naming what has been called the "Central Park". It is very important that the city names the park

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: cont.**

because the name will help identify who the city is. Mayor Orcutt has reached out to members on all Committees, commissions, and a resident to form this committee. More information about the committee will be present to Council at the Mayor's next report.

Mayor Orcutt reported that the Tech Committee meeting was a very good meeting. The Sewer District Automation is for recording. Mayor Orcutt addressed Councilwoman Coyne's inquiry concerning how to record statistics on residential flooding. The Mayor is working with the Sewer District to give the tools to the Service Director to be able to record information concerning the flooding in residents homes, broken basins, etc.

Finally, Mayor Orcutt report that the city has the grant money for the charging stations. It has been made a priority for that committee to move forward to have the stations installed sooner than later.

Mr. Mencini commented on Mayor Orcutt's report complimenting the snow removal job by the Service Department and the safety forces. Mr. Mencini also asked about information concerning the budget for street repair maintenance.

Mayor Orcutt responded that the funds and revenues have to be diversified. Monies coming in must go towards paying all the leases also finding ways to help relieve flooding and taking care of the infrastructure that is failing. Roads will absolutely be maintained and there will be a roads program that will be determined once the budget has been reviewed. The Council and Engineer will help identify what roads are to be repaired first and they will be repaired in that order.

Mr. Mencini asked about BP.

Mayor Orcutt responded that the Central Park Committee plan is to decide what is best for Central Park and bring those ideas to Council for approval and then move from there. BP and other projects cost money and Mayor Orcutt will be working with the Economic Development Commissioner who has been chosen.

Mr. Roberts asked about more information on the newly hired Economic Development Commissioner, the hiring process for this position and how soon will the successful candidate be announced.

Mayor Orcutt responded that the hiring process included working with the Finance Department as Mayor-elect, putting an ad on INDEED collecting over 30 resumes and applications, and conducted interviews with qualified applicants for grant writing.



**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: cont.**

The successful candidate is very qualified and will start on January 31<sup>st</sup> and Mayor Orcutt will announce the candidate at the end of the week.

Mr. Troyer asked the Mayor for the names of the members on the Central Park Committee.

Mayor Orcutt responded that there is still one person to confirm and then he will provide that information.

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

Mr. Healy (Assistant Finance Director), had no report.

Mr. Sackett (Assistant Law Director) had no report.

Mr. Piatak (Engineer) reported on an update from the Contractor doing the waterline work on Sheldon Road by Abram's Creek. The water is progressing. There were some minor delays due to weather but the work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>. The road will open back up upon project completion. Update on the Eastland Road pre-signal at the MS Rail crossing near 237. The City is still coordinating with ODOT and the Ohio Railway Commission on this project. The project is still on the books but waiting to hear back from ODOT and will pass along more information to Council.

The Sheldon Road Resurfacing project is a project that Cuyahoga County is doing between Engle and Smith Road. The project is scheduled for 2024. There is a segment of the waterline that needs to be completed between Engle and 71. In conjunction with this project, the county informally agreed to include that waterline work in their resurfacing project with the caveat that the City fund the design, the oversight, the actual water main work, and the pertinent pay items. They will need a resolution from the city to include the waterline work in the plans. The County is preparing the resolution at this point. The Local share for the resurfacing project is estimated to be \$63,000. An estimation on the waterline is approximately \$750,000.

Mr. Gonzalez (Recreation Director) reported basketball protocols will continue to limit the number of spectators allowed during tournaments which are 2 spectators per player. Masks are highly recommended and staff mask mandates also continue. Mr. Gonzalez thanked the Service Department for clearing the recreation parking lot despite the weather. Kids out of school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day attended the Rec. Center along with other diehards.

Mr. Gonzalez has challenged his staff to think outside of the box and create new programming for the upcoming year.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS: cont.**

The first new program the Rec. Center will offer is a Daddy Daughter dance on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All attendees must pre-register by February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, Mr. Gonzalez reported that the application for the Community Development Supplemental Grant is nearly completed.

He thanked Council for suspending the rules and passing that Resolution. It is in the Mayor's office at this time for review and once the Mayor reviews it and approves it, then it will be submitted and hopefully get the \$50,000 to install bathrooms at the Amphitheater. Last year's grant money went towards purchasing outdoor equipment. Installation of this equipment was pushed back till March.

Mr. Beyer (Service Director) stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve as Service Director and is looking forward to working with Council and the City. Right now the Service Department is in winter operations so they do have three (3) shifts 24/7. There was approximately 16 inches of snowfall according to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

From the beginning of the snow event until late morning yesterday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Service department had approximately three hundred working hours clearing roads along with servicing twenty pieces of equipment to allow the operation to run smoothly.

That's not including today's clean-up including removing snow from lots that are not regularly used, removing snow from Cul de Sacs if needed, running sidewalk plows for Brook Park Elementary and the traveled sidewalks leading to Brook Park elementary and the crosswalks for the crossing guards.

The Service Department also had a weather event Friday into Saturday with ice. The Service Department salted the roads. Parts of Sylvia, Delores, and Middlebrook were just completed. Signs are posted at the beginning of the new pavement.

The Service Department tried not to treat those areas due to the preservation of the service of that new concrete for at least six months to a year. Things are working out on Middlebrook and Sylvia better than Delores. With the assistance of the Police

Department on Saturday morning, the road on Delores was shut down to put light salt down to make where traffic is able to pass through. Approximately Four hundred tons of salt was used between the two weather events and there is one thousand tons left and One thousand tons were ordered for delivery starting tomorrow.

Mr. Roberts asked about the wood on the Amphitheater being stained.



**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS: cont.**

Mr. Gonzalez responded that the wood came from the factory already pre-treated.

Mr. Roberts asked if the just bathrooms will be installed in the Amphitheater or will it be a bathroom concession stand combo installment.

Mr. Gonzalez responded that it will be a bathroom only. It comes already pre-fabbed, concrete walls, and comes on a crane.

Mr. Mencini asked where the city stands financially compared to last year this time.

Mr. Healy stated that the big thing is the rebates which is not clear as to what that amount. There is a lot more unknown going into 2022. As there probably were in 2021. This is new territory and other cities and even the state of Ohio is dealing with it. The Finance Department is diligently working at their projections and being cautious. The Finance Department will have information for Council soon.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Gonzalez about programs for seniors and adults.

Mr. Gonzalez confirmed that the Rec Center is planning on offering more programs for seniors and adults. The seniors have taken hiatus for the month of January off of their meetings. Whether the seniors will come back for February will depend on COVID.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Beyer about the Senior Driveway Program.

Mr. Breyer responded that they received some phone calls. It took some time, there were over 16 inches of snow. Around 3 p.m. this afternoon, there were still some

senior driveways that Contractors were working on. City Hall fielded quite a few phone calls.

Mayor Orcutt responded that the program ran very smoothly all things considered. There were 3 - 4 foot drifts in people's driveways and it took probably double the time to clear. Expectations within the contract were met but this didn't meet the expectations of some of the residents. However, complaints were few and they didn't even reach double digits.

Although City Hall was closed, Mayor Orcutt worked with several Councilmen and the Contractors to take care of the issues that occurred. Ward 4 had an issue with an elderly resident in her nineties who had a snow issue in her driveway and the contractors took care of that.

Mr. Mencini responded that he received questions about where to get this type of assistance and maybe the City needs to get that information out to residents sooner about this service.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS: cont.**

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Gonzalez about whether the Rec. Center will be opened on Sundays.

Mr. Gonzalez responded that there are no plans at this time to open on Sundays. Sundays attendance have been very limited at the Rec. Center. It is a cost-saving measure for the lack of attendance but it is something to think about for the future.

Mr. Scott thanked the Service Department for their service yesterday.

Mr. Vecchio thanked the Service Department for their work during the snowstorm as well and commended them for doing the best job clearing the streets of Brook Park than those of other cities in the County. The driveways everywhere are behind.

**Motion** by Mr. Roberts, supported by Mr. Troyer, to go out of the order of business to letter L. **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Roberts, Troyer, Poindexter, Salvatore, Scott, Mencini, Coyne.

**NAYS:** None The motion approved.

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

Resident, Elizabeth Sayers, 23065 Cedar Point Rd.

Asked about the time limit for the audience to speak at the podium and the Amphitheater seating accommodations and new bathrooms.

Lou Modic 14399 Fayette BLVD.

Remarked about Resolution 33-2016. Council agreed and voted on holding a series of public hearings about marijuana dispensaries. He would like action on this Resolution. He also remarked on the census redistricting plans for Brook Park. He also remarked about trash in the streets.

Resident, Ray Peterlin 5811 Wengle Dr.

Remarked about lifeguard training, flooding, 5-minute audience participation rule, Amphitheater suggestions/complaints, generating money for the city, teachers' shortage, and utilizing seniors for substitutes.

**Motion** by Madame. Coyne, supported by Mr. Salvatore, to take a five-minute recess.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Coyne, Salvatore, Scott, Mencini, Roberts, Poindexter, Troyer.

**NAYS:** None The motion approved.



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

Mr. Vecchio called the meeting back in session.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Roberts, Coyne, Poindexter, Scott, Mencini, Salvatore,  
**NAYS:** None The motion approved.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Mencini, to address the audience.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Mencini, Salvatore, Roberts, Coyne, Poindexter, Troyer,  
**NAYS:** None The motion approved.

Mr. Scott addressed resident Liz by stating that twenty-five other cities and counties that have time limits for audience participation in Council. Mr. Scott also addressed resident Louie on charter 1707 (Mandatory Redistricting). As of today, Brook Park does not have the proclamation of population. However, it is not a moot point. Lastly, Mr. Scott confronted contractors, though the Building Commissioner, about blowing grass into the streets and addressed trash in the streets.

Mr. Mencini addressed the trash in the parks and seating accommodations in the Amphitheater. Ideas from resident Ray were good ideas that will be taken under consideration but will take time.

Mr. Salvatore addressed the redistricting issue brought forth by resident Louie. Since a couple of wards may be out of balance in population, then redistricting is necessary. Mr. Salvatore does not support the five-minute time limit for public speaking.

Madame Coyne thanked the resident, Louie for bringing up and supporting Medical marijuana and thanked resident, Ray for his suggestions for the city.

Mr. Troyer remarked on the length of time each person spoke during audience participation.

Mr. Troyer agreed with resident Lou Modic's comments on medical marijuana. The consensus for redistricting at the time was that there was not enough change in the population to do it. However, now redistricting should be performed to make wards even again. Mr. Troyer addressed resident, Ray concerning allowing public speaking during Caucus meetings, flooding, and the Amphitheater. Mr. Troyer supports the vision of the Administration.

Mayor Orcutt also addressed some of the audience comments including ADA compliance for seating and bathrooms in the Amphitheater. The Bathrooms are ADA compliant. In order to do things in the community, you must have money. The concerts at the Amphitheater were attended by people with limited abilities with no problems.

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

Mayor Orcutt thanked Mr. Modic for coming out and addressed Mr. Peterlin concerning the plan for water storm and electrical have been review by the administration. As a result of the review, the administration will need to provide a hundred-amp service to those bathrooms.

In-house, water will be provided, and the sanitary line. The hundred-amp service will take care of all the needs concerning hot water, etc. The Footers will also be provided and the concrete walks will be installed all in-house.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Troyer, Poindexter, Scott, Salvatore, Roberts, Coyne,  
**NAYS:** None The motion approved.

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

- 1. 2022 CAUCUS- COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE.

**Motion** by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to approve the 2022 Council meeting schedule.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Poindexter, Mencini, Roberts, Coyne  
**NAYS:** Troyer and Salvatore The motion was approved 5 to 2.

- 2. COUNCIL RULE #4- SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Mr. Troyer asked for a point of clarification and stated that they should not be there for Rule #4.

Mr. Vecchio clarified and pointed out that there was an oversight on the Council Rules but the correction is there and that it had been approved on January 21, 2020. It will go on as written here.

**Motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Roberts, that it has been discussed.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Troyer, Roberts, Coyne Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Poindexter  
**NAYS:** None. The motion was approved.

- 3. COUNCIL RULE #7-ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (FIRST READING).

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Poindexter, Mencini, Troyer, Salvatore, Scott, Roberts, Coyne  
**NAYS:** None. The motion was approved.

- 4. COUNCIL RULE #12A- ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: INTRODUCTION.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Poindexter, Mencini, Salvatore, Roberts, Coyne Troyer,  
**NAYS:** None. The motion was approved.



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

5. COUNCIL RULE #12C- DELIVERY TO THE LAW DIRECTOR.

Madame Coyne asked for a point of clarification. How is this going to be read?

Mr. Vecchio read Council Rule 12A in its entirety.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Poindexter, Troyer, Mencini, Salvatore, Roberts, Coyne

**NAYS:** None. The motion was approved.

6. COUNCIL RULE #19- PERMISSION REQUIRED TO ADDRESS COUNCIL.

Mr. Troyer expressed his concern about the 5-minute limit for public speaking during audience participation but will support it to see how it works out.

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

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Scott, Mencini, Poindexter, Troyer

**NAYS:** Salvatore, Roberts, Coyne. The motion was approved 4 to 3.

Mr. Vecchio read Council Rule 19 in its entirety.

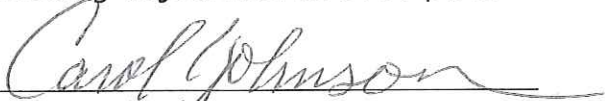
Mr. Vecchio stated that the Mayor has a proclamation honoring Brook Park School Choice Week read by the Council Clerk in its entirety.

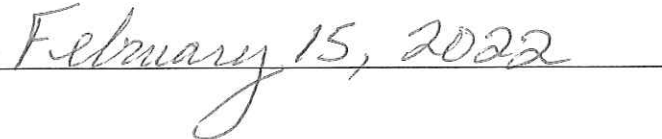
There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Roberts to adjourn.

**ROLL CALL: AYES:** Mencini, Roberts, Coyne, Poindexter, Troyer, Salvatore, Scott

**NAYS:** None. The motion was approved.

Mr. Vecchio declared the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED   
Carol Johnson  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED 

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