

**CAUCUS PRIOR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

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:

TROYER, MENCINI, ROBERTS, SCOTT, COYNE, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE

Also in attendance were Finance Director Cingle, Recreation Director Gonzalez, Law Director Horvath, Service Director Beyer, and Mayor Orcutt.

Mr. Vecchio stated there are no items on this agenda and would take a motion to go to the Addendum.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Roberts, to go to the Addendum.

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

NAYS: Troyer, Poindexter. The motion carried.

ADDENDUM:

DISCUSSION:

1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2022 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S) FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mayor Orcutt stated this Ordinance is for a grant the city applies for every year with the monies being utilized towards the account the city has with NOPEC amounting to approximately \$160,000.00 'earmarked' for a lighting program from last year for the central park area around the amphitheater, down Engle Road and Sylvania. Some of the dollars would be utilized for crosswalks and lights at Brook Park Elementary School.

Mr. Roberts asked if this is time-sensitive?

Mayor Orcutt responded with any grant it is a first-come, first-serve so the city would like to get this grant submitted as soon as possible.

Mr. Troyer asked when was legislation passed last year?

Mayor Orcutt stated can get that information.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer continued would like to have a list compiled in writing as to what the city expects to get from this. The wording 'An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary' is wide open.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mayor Orcutt you mentioned there is an account with approximately \$160,000.00 but the city is only asking for \$41,397.00.

Mayor Orcutt responded this would be an addition to taking the city to approximately \$200,000.00 with 162,000 of that money earmarked for the lighting project for Route 237.

Mr. Poindexter interjected that has already been granted to the city?

Po already granted to the city.

Mayor Orcutt concurred and mentioned the first four (4) weeks being in office the city has applied for four (4) grants with this one being for lighting specifically. Would like to have lights installed on Snow Road and a rendering will be coming to Council. Would also like to clean up the area around Snow Road and I-71 with nice lights and lamps.

Mr. Mencini commented like the idea of new lights on Snow Road and would also like to see new lighting on Smith Road, in some kind of way.

Madame Coyne stated to the Mayor residing on the west end of the city traveling down Ruple Parkway and Aerospace Parkway there are lights that are fading out. Can some of these monies be used for that as well?

Mayor Orcutt responded yes, and the specific area you are speaking of the service director is working on that because it's not only lights being burned out but also a dangerous situation over there.

Mr. Salvatore stated in favor of this project being proposed and would like to do this with or without grant monies and if needed add some more monies.

Mayor stated those conversations have been talked about for over a decade and this would make that area more appealing for motorists coming off of I-71. This is just a start and the city is trying to capture as much money as possible.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mayor Orcutt thinking about the airport development project on I-71 and Snow Road. Have you been in contact with airport personnel to see if that is going to incorporate some development in that area by diverting traffic?

Discussion:

Mayor Orcutt responded have not Orcutt haven't specifically been on any plans for the airport upgrade but had a meeting with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) about the Snow Road and I-71 bridge that city has been 'earmarked' for. Also, met with a potential county official about the Engle Road area.

Mr. Poindexter commented if any airport plans come forward would like to be included being Chairman of the Aviation and Environmental committee.

Mr. Scott commented anytime grant monies become available the city should apply and would like to move forward with this.

Mr. Troyer stated the lighting on Aerospace Parkway the City of Cleveland has replaced lights and poles, the city needs to the same. Grants are residents' monies and want to beautify the city but my priority is the roof and walls in the recreation center.

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Poindexter, item number one was discussed.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO PROVIDE ADJUSTMENTS IN COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY, OTHER THAN ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THOSE COVERED UNDER NEGOTIATED LABOR CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mayor Orcutt stated with preparing the budget we have known for some time from finance reports and HB 157 that rebate checks will be sent from the city to people working from home. We have streamlined government in both the building and recreation department and the legislation in front of Council, will help streamlining with city employees. Mr. Cingle did a great job in preparing the budget and hope to have before Council for next Tuesday's Caucus. With this salary legislation I think this needs to happen for a few years for readjustment of several salaries for the near future.

Mr. Mencini asked Mayor Orcutt if this was brought forward by his administration?

Mayor Orcutt responded this was brought forward by me.

Mr. Mencini continued are the current salaries at the high or low level?

Mayor Orcutt responded there are a few at the high end, some at the middle and one at the top.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mayor Orcutt you went a little lower and most of the salaries are at the top scales.

Mayor Orcutt responded Human Resources Commissioner salary is coming down over \$4,000.00; the adjustment is built and does have room for growth over the next few years. This is temporary and needs to be done to keep the city afloat with income taxes and trying to be as responsible as possible.

Mr. Mencini commented income tax, inflation and gas prices and being in negotiations are we streamlining enough to the aspect of putting city departments at a disadvantage?

Mayor Orcutt responded no, there have been adjustments with two salaries being increased, one operating at City Hall. There also has been an increase to lower overtime at the police department by not having a part-time jailer position being filled with an patrol officer or sergeant. I don't think this salary schedule is correct because the city needs to be competitive. Looking at the Economic Development Commissioner that salary tops out at \$88,000.00 and may be something that may have to be moved up in the next few years.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mayor Orcutt these are the only adjustments being made from previous salary ranges. Was anyone as a result of the maximum affected by making more

Mayor Orcutt responded no one was affected and was lowered with room to grow. This is needed with House Bill 157 and when everyone returns to work the city plans on readjusting salaries back to normal.

Mr. Poindexter stated I want to make it clear that I don't want to balance the budget on the backs of city employees that work for us, they should be rewarded not have cuts. The Foundations Center will bring fruits to the city and am glad that that the salary legislation in front of Council because I would like to propose increasing the Boards and Commissions to \$200.00 annually.

Mayor Orcutt responded to Mr. Poindexter, I appreciate your comments and will say when preparing the budget, we are not balancing the budget on the backs of city employees. This administration is trying to be fiscally responsible during a time of need. There will be other types of changes, for example, speaking with the service director the city needs to stop paying \$239,000.00 for a dump truck. This city needs to start doing what other cities are doing with the purchasing of equipment with lower miles and lower purchase price.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer stated have mentioned Government Deals before and am glad that it is being talked about. Can purchase a southern vehicle that has never seen salt and there will be costs to get those vehicles up here that will have to be looked at. In my opinion, the salary for the Director of Public Safety should be between \$52,000.00 to \$60,000.00 and making it a part-time position and have a retiree willing to work that job.

Madam Coyne asked Mayor Orcutt are these salaries retroactive to January 1st 2022 or will that come up when going through the budget?

Mayor Orcutt responded these will be put into effect once passed and will not affect anyone working for the city currently.

Mr. Vecchio asked Mayor Orcutt what is schedule 131.07 (a) – COE Assistant Office Clerk?

Mayor Orcutt responded that is a position that has been around since 1967. In City Hall there is the Mayor, Executive Assistant to the Mayor and a secretary underneath the Mayor's Executive Assistant. This position is used to fill in for lunch breaks and in different offices; currently the position is being used by Mr. D'Amico and was formerly used by Ms. Adkins who currently works at the fire department.

Mr. Vecchio continued are you proposing to double the maximum and leave the minimum alone?

Mayor Orcutt concurred.

Mr. Vecchio continued a rough estimate number will reduce the maximum overall by \$15,000.00 annually and the minimum roughly will be \$43,000.00 annually.

Mayor Orcutt concurred.

Mr. Vecchio asked does anyone in these positions changes make that minimum dollar

Mayor Orcutt responded no.

Mr. Vecchio commented above the minimum?

Mayor Orcutt concurred.

Mr. Troyer requested the current salaries of all employees.

Mayor Orcutt responded we can get that to you.

Discussion: cont.

Motion by Mr. Troyer supported by Mr. Roberts this was discussed

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Troyer, supported by Madam Coyne to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Vecchio declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Carol Johnson
Carol Johnson
Clerk of Council

APPROVED 4-5-22

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