

**CAUCUS PRIOR TO MEETING MINUTES
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 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 Mayor Orcutt, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle, Service Director Beyer and Recreation Director Gonzales.

DISCUSSION:

1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY COST-SHARE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORS) AND THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, FOR THE STORMWATER MCM #6 IMPLEMENTATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mayor Orcutt stated this is legislation for the annual maintenance of catch-basins and street sweeper reimbursement.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Beyer how many employees do the catch-basin cleaning and street sweeping?

Mr. Beyer responded the Vactor that cleans the catch-basins, on a daily basis, along with jetting out the laterals and mains has two employees and the street sweeper has one employee.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Cingle what fund will that come from?

Mr. Cingle responded Fund 100 – General Fund.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Madam Coyne, to amend section two by inserting 100 after the word fund and deleting 'theretofore appropriated for said purpose'.

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

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Madam Coyne, discussed.

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

Discussion: cont.

2. ELECTORAL REDISTRICTING PER BROOK PARK CITY CHARTER (Councilman Scott and Councilman Salvatore)

Mr. Scott stated this is to approve the contract proposal of \$2,500.00 for redistricting of the city's four wards.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Scott has there been any insight of the new borders?

Mr. Scott responded that is after the fact until he is under contract due to concerns with legalities. Once approved he will come back with formal boundaries and so forth.

Mr. Poindexter continued in the agreement it states up to three meetings then any additional meeting(s) will be \$250.00 an hour?

Mr. Scott concurred and stated talking with other cities this is the best price. One city used their city engineer and when speaking with Engineer Piatak by the time he the program it would not be timely.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Scott and Salvatore good work getting this going, with the three presentations would be that a Caucus, Council and possibly a meeting with the public?

Mr. Scott mentioned there are time constraints with this.

Mr. Vecchio clarified to Mr. Mencini are you saying public participation?

Mr. Mencini responded more or less.

Mr. Vecchio stated don't know how that could be done.

Mr. Troyer thanked both Councilmembers for bringing this forward, should be done. Don't like the map currently feels Ward 1 needs more extending to Holland and/or Smith Roads, taking some out of Ward 2. Ward three has the next highest level and take some out and put in Ward two.

Mr. Salvatore stated this has to be done, it is mandatory that it be done and Brook Park falls into the three categories why this has to be done. I asked this gentleman, as a favor to me, to meet with the two new Councilmembers, since they have never been through this and he also met with other Councilmembers. This gentleman is the lowest, best qualified and well respected in his industry. To follow-up with Mr. Troyer he is correct we need to simplify.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer stated part of the problem the city has with this is the Census does everything in blocks so the borders can't be done the way we would like them to be done.

Mr. Scott commented I emailed this gentleman asking him to try and do the least inclusive and try to do the least movement with boundaries and wards.

Mr. Vecchio commented I believe he is using the GIS (Geographical Information System) which is the mapping that streets are done by in most communities giving them the database and great turn-around time by giving 10% of the number they have for registered voters and population.

Madam Coyne commented this gentleman is also a North Olmsted Councilperson and does a lot of work with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place on the Council agenda immediately following under Verbal Approval.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTION: Salvatore. Motion carried.

3. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mr. Vecchio stated the reason the budget is on is to work with Council to set parameters for upcoming meetings. It's also been mentioned to have directors in attendance to speak on their departments.

Mr. Mencini stated I like to have the directors at a meeting and let's move forward.

Mayor Orcutt stated the intent for this was to introduce the budget at this evening's Council meeting. As to having department heads in attendance they were scheduled to be here to speak at the microphone tonight. It was brought to my attention earlier today that this probably couldn't be discussed due to an issue with this being posted. The administration's intent was to have the finance director go over the budget this evening as well as having department heads and police chief in attendance.

Mr. Poindexter stated during my tenure on Council the directors appeared before Council prior to the budget being in written form. To have discussion of their capital needs that would be in the budget. The directors present their wish list with some

Discussion: cont.

bantering back and forth between the directors and Council to narrow down that wish list and then that is what is included in the budget. Council received this budget on Friday so to review and pass at the last meeting of the month is ridiculous, I have several questions on this budget.

Mayor Orcutt rebutted I think this is normal time for delivery of the budget and when I served on Council there were times the budget was delivered later than today's date; I don't remember dictating what the directors' capital needs were to the Mayor. The budget was prepared and delivered promptly and had the department heads ready to come and discuss their capital needs.

Mr. Poindexter continued the fact of the matter is the budget wasn't presented to the last scheduled meeting of the month. Can phrase it however you want that it was presented last week it still appears on the last scheduled meeting of the month when Council heard for months and months prior to this year that the budget needs to get out early and Council receives the last scheduled meeting of the month. I personally would feel better discussing the budget at a full Caucus where questions can be asked and not in a hurry matter to try to get the Council meeting following. There are questions with this budget that I have and don't want to be rushed or hurried to ask those questions.

Mayor Orcutt commented every year being on Council there were scheduled meetings called for the budget. Also the finance director and I had to go to arbitration to represent the city and a budget cannot be done until the arbitrator determines what raises the unions will receive.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mayor Orcutt you stated that you had directors scheduled to appear tonight that did not come through the Council office; so, in essence, there was no one scheduled. Unless it comes through the Council office and approved by myself there is no one scheduled and that did not come through. There is 16 days from today to get this budget passed with no meetings scheduled other than what was scheduled preemptively for next week.

Mrs. Horvath stated a few general remarks to consider the line by line budget needs to be posted and did not see it posted online. Therefore, Council can only talk about the budget in generalities and not specific items. In comparison from last year to this year last year's budget was introduced on March 16, 2021 with the full budget attached and posted. Therefore, direct questions of the directors cannot be asked due to not being properly posted; only questions in general can be asked.

Discussion: cont.

Madam Coyne stated I do recall at the first or second meeting when speaking on the budget I stated to the Mayor to finish all the union contracts before starting the budget process. There are items and amendments that I want to propose with this budget and as stated by the law director and myself there should have been separate meetings for the once the union contracts were complete.

Mayor Orcutt commented so everyone knows, for the record, the factfinder is not over there are negotiations tomorrow with issues that still have to be dealt with and needs to get them out of the way. This budget is being presented and based on taking care of the unions. Agree with the law director that the posting needs to be right, the proper posting was at the Council office and each Councilmember received the budget on Friday. The problem that the law director and I spoke of is the budget not being posted on the city's website for people to review.

Mr. Troyer stated there is enough time to get this done, one of my concerns and everyone knows I don't like for meetings to be called for second and third readings when something hasn't been introduced or had its first reading, think that is disrespectful to Council. Usually Council would go over what I call the worksheets make any amendments and then have the legislation drawn up. Since the legislation has already been drawn up Council can amend the legislation also.

Mr. Vecchio clarified Mr. Troyer's proposal of having a Special Caucus meeting for April 22nd with a Special Council meeting to follow for first reading. Along with a Special Caucus and Special Council meeting scheduled for April 29th.

Mr. Roberts stated asked for a poll of Council who is not available and go from there.

Mr. Salvatore commented the Mayor can call a meeting whenever he wants for whatever topic. If he wants to call three meetings he can do that the dates would be set; same goes for the Council President and any three Members of Council. This going back and forth can't make in on this day or that day, this is important, and if it's not important to you don't come to the meeting.

Mayor Orcutt stated when the three special meetings were called it was due to the Council agenda not being properly posted.

Mr. Vecchio stated to Mayor Orcutt for clarification instead of you throwing the Council office under the proverbial bus, as attempting. What was sent over was for introduction and as you know introduction takes place at a Council meeting. The legislation would not be attached to because it wasn't introduced; so what we have is here is an item for discussion that is listed as what you are asking for.

Discussion: cont.

This discussion is for these purposes, in turn, with that simply put would have been a phone call to me and that didn't happen.

Mayor Orcutt interjected we surpassed the 72-hour mark when I found out and what I think was posted was the attachments that were emailed, not trying to throw anyone under the bus. Just describing to the Councilperson why I called for three meetings.

Mr. Vecchio stated I will call for a special Council meeting for Tuesday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m., following up with a special meeting.

Mayor Orcutt interjected let me put together a complete packet with a list of who will be there at one time or they can be divided up.

Mr. Salvatore stated the tentative dates were for Tuesday, April 22nd and Thursday, April 24th, there were only two meetings called.

Mr. Vecchio concurred so those two meetings will be called at 6:00 p.m., with both dates having a special Caucus and special Council immediately following.

Mr. Troyer commented April 22nd special Council would be for first reading and April 24th special Council would be for second reading and call a special meeting for April 29th for third reading, if needed.

Mr. Vecchio clarified those three notices will be out tomorrow for 6:00 p.m. on April 22nd, April 24th and April 29th.

Motion by Mr. Roberts, supported by Mr. Poindexter, that this item was discussed.
ROLL CALL: AYES: Roberts, Poindexter, Mencini, Salvatore, Troyer, Coyne, Scott
NAYS: Unanimous.

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

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

Caucus Prior

March 15, 2022

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. and stated there will be a five-minute recess between meetings.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Carol Johnson
Carol Johnson
Clerk of Council

APPROVED May 17, 2022

THESE MEETING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS, NOT TRANSCRIBED IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ALTHOUGH ACCURATE.

