

**SPECIAL CAUCUS MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 6:00 p.m., who read the meeting notice. 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, Economic Development Marnacheck, Service Director Beyer and Recreation Director Gonzales.

DISCUSSION:

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Madam Coyne, to go out of the regular order of business to item no. 2 - Electoral Redistricting.

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

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

**Chris Glassburn
President Project Govern
23993 Fairlawn Drive
North Olmsted**

Mr. Glassburn mentioned that he also worked with map redistricting for the federal government.

Mr. Mencini thanked Mr. Glassburn for coming and asked what was the process for the three plans received.

Mr. Glassburn stated with the city's existing plan Ward One is 10% less in population. The numbers shown in these packets reflect the 2020 Census that was drawn in blocks and redistricting in the legal community range for a population of ten percentage points. Those percentage points could be five heavy or five light of six heavy and four light for a total range of ten points. The city's existing plan has a range of 15 percentage points in Ward 1. Mr. Glassburn gave a description of all four plans for redistricting that are available in the Council office or view on livestream.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Glassburn if he did this himself or by another company.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Glassburn responded of my company I am the only one that draws maps from my company.

Mr. Mencini stated have to ask nobody from this Council body called you saying which one is good.

Mr. Glassburn responded I had a little bit of briefings from Members as to where people live but no Member of this Council saw this being drawn and these districts were not drawn on anyone's behalf or direction.

Mr. Mencini asked Mr. Glassburn of these which one do you like?

Mr. Glassburn responded I don't have a favorite variant and as labeled one, two and four would be sufficient to the community. That would be a preference as to how you would like to approach.

Mr. Poindexter stated depending on what variance is chosen does that work include drawing the precinct lines?

Mr. Glassburn responded the boundaries are drawn and given to the Board of Elections (BOE). Presumably after the state finishes their process and after the election is taken into account to draw the precinct lines. Last I heard from the BOE not even thinking about drawing precinct lines until prior to the general election.

Mr. Troyer thanked Councilmembers Salvatore and Scott for their work on this and thanked Mr. Glassburn for his work. What is the next step with moving forward?

Mr. Vecchio responded once Council decides on their choice a request will be made to the law director to prepare legislation to be sent down to the BOE.

Mr. Salvatore asked Mr. Glassburn once Council decides on which variant to be used how long will it take to get it ready?

Mr. Glassburn responded this can be done in 24-hours.

Mr. Vecchio thanked Mr. Glassburn for his time spent on this.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Troyer, to place on the April 5th Caucus Prior to under discussion.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTION: Salvatore.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Poindexter, to go back to regular order of business.

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

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11244-2022

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

Mr. Troyer stated to Mayor Orcutt with the roads program generally there is something with crack-sealing. Are there any ideas?

Mayor Orcutt responded generally the city files for a grant from the county and speaking with the engineer all the county roads are already crack-sealed. Mr. Beyer is looking into purchasing equipment for city crews to do this.

Madam Coyne stated to Mayor Orcutt speaking with Mr. Cingle there were some accounts that were closed. One question I have about the closed accounts is where did those monies go and how much of it could be transferred to the Roads Program? Just want to make sure the roads were coming from a separate entity than the (recreation center) roof and walls.

Mayor Orcutt responded on page 15 of the Disbursements and Appropriations the one brought up was Fund 545 - Street Paving and Repair Improvement Fund was closed.

Mr. Cingle responded Fund 540 - Snow Road Resurfacing Project is closed; Fund 543 - 2017 Street Improvement Fund is closed; Fund 545 - 2018-2019 Street Improvement Fund is still open waiting for the city engineer to close out the West 130th Street project and then will be closed. A portion of those dollars will go to both the general and capital improvement funds. Fund 546 - remains open with the possibility of being able to close by the end of the year, once all the street improvement projects are closed; remaining monies going to both the general and capital improvement funds.

Madam Coyne asked Mr. Cingle if any of those monies can be transferred to the street program?

Mr. Cingle responded as discussed last week in Fund 545 - 2018-2019 Street Improvement Fund some of those monies will go to both the general and capital improvement funds with the thought to utilize those dollars for the (recreation center) roof and walls.

Madam Coyne asked if that will be a separate fund?

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Cingle responded yes, they will be separate with a new fund created for the (recreation center) roof and walls repairs.

Mr. Poindexter stated point of clarification she also asked about Fund 521.

Mr. Cingle responded Fund 521 is still open and as stated at one the past meetings that fund, maybe not this year, is the emergency reserve balance in the capital fund. For example, a sewer collapse or road repair.

Madam Coyne asked Mr. Cingle about Fund 546?

Mr. Cingle responded that fund is still open.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle Fund 545 - 2018-2019 Street Improvement Fund a lot of that money are basically paybacks for loans and grants, correct?

Mr. Cingle responded yes, there was an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant in the amount of \$7,416,000.00 and an OPWC loan in the amount of \$128,000.00. Also, there was an Ohio Department of Transportation grant in the amount of \$561,000,00 with some reimbursements and a transfer of \$150,000.00 from the general fund and \$1,375,000.00 from the capital fund.

Mr. Troyer continued is this the case of the city paying up front and then getting reimbursed.

Mr. Cingle responded yes, the city engineer will submit documentation to the proper authorities to pay directly to the contractor. Once the city receives the documents of payments made those monies are marked on the books as being received and spent out.

Mr. Salvatore stated to Mr. Cingle for clarification, those monies are put back in the general and capital improvement funds based on the split?

Mr. Cingle responded those monies are put back based on the percentage of each split not the 80/20 split. Based on the allocation of funds transferred from the general and capital improvement funds, for example, \$1 million-dollars would be a 50/50 transfer back to both funds.

Madam Coyne stated to Mr. Cingle with the accounts that are open there is approximately \$3.2 million-dollars available from the funds that are not closed.

Mr. Cingle responded in Fund 521 the beginning balance for this year is \$214,400.00 rounded with no proposed appropriation to use those funds. Fund

Discussion: cont.

545 has a beginning balance of \$1,609,000.00 rounded with no appropriations against that balance, still waiting to close out the West 130th Street project that is still open.

Madam Coyne asked Mr. Cingle if any of those funds can go to the roads program?

Mr. Cingle responded the dollars that are not appropriated can be transferred to a roads program with Council's approval. Once the funds are closed those monies will go to both the general and capital improvement funds. For example, roughly 43% of any dollars remaining in that fund will go to the general fund and a little less than 56% going to the capital improvement fund. Again, it is the administration's intent to use those dollars to fund the (recreation center) roof and walls repairs. Fund 546 has a beginning balance of \$753,266.00 with \$652,835.00 being encumbered (page seven and 15 of the estimated revenue sheets). Therefore, the balance in that fund is currently a little over \$100,000.00 with projects still being open; so that balance could either increase or decrease.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Cingle if there isn't a present appropriation for funds 521 or 545 none of those monies can be spent this year without appropriating those monies.

Mr. Cingle responded correct.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Cingle looking at Fund 547 - 2022 Street Improvement has a balance of \$700,000.00 transferred from the capital improvement fund with the rest of those monies coming from the Street, Construction, Maintenance and Repair SCMR fund, correct?

Mr. Cingle responded yes.

Mr. Troyer continued so \$700,000.00 was pulled from the capital improvement fund and also pulled monies from another fund. There are certain rules if monies are coming from one fund the monies need to go back to that fund. Referencing the \$1.2 million-dollars from the general fund for roads and showing \$1 million-dollars pulled from a different fund those dollars are able to be put back to the general fund.

Mr. Cingle responded simply put, when monies are transferred, for example, from the general fund from a roads improvement fund and all those dollars are not expensed; those monies leftover need to be transferred to the fund from which they were transferred.

Madam Coyne stated to Mr. Gonzales everyone knows the (recreation center) roof and walls need repaired, this has been going on for several years. There were

Discussion: cont.

several estimates given so my question is once that is done what then? Has there ever been a plan? With the sense of the pool perhaps an agreement could be made with other recreation centers for our residents to use their pools with reimbursement to the residents. In order to get a rough idea on how many people want a pool.

Mr. Gonzales stated three out of the four walls of the actual structure are dependent on that and the plan is to do this in phases. Phase one would be the repair to the roof and walls and phase two would be doing something with the actual structure.

Madam Coyne continued do you think there is a way to do that with other recreation centers for determination of building another pool.

Mayor Orcutt responded the plan is to take care of the structure that has been structurally damaged for many years; with the intent of this administration is to first repair the roof and walls. Then when it comes to what will be done after that we have to make sure the city can afford that. Need to remember this entire budget is mandated by State HB 157 to reimburse people that plays a very big part as to what is done. The city has been mandated by the State of Ohio to reimburse people income tax dollars that do not work in the City of Brook Park. The new numbers coming in are not good so the focus of this administration is to structurally take care of this building. Then take a look at what will be done after repairs in the next year or two. With this state mandate individual have up to three years to put in for income tax reimbursement.

Madam Coyne continued yes, this building needs to be safe for the residents. Suggested an idea of making deals with close by recreation centers to allow our residents to use their pools and reimburse residents that do use the pools. Just to get a tally as to how many people will use the pool.

Mayor Orcutt stated to Madam Coyne that is a great suggestion and would be public record to check the surrounding areas that have a pool to find out the general admission price for the use of their pools. The main priority is to structurally take care of that area and the funds to open a pool were denied in 2014.

Mr. Poindexter stated to Mr. Cingle let's say with Fund 545 no monies come out of that fund. Those monies left over are transferred to the general fund or, at that time, could be appropriated wherever Council determines.

Mr. Cingle responded correct.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Scott stated to Mr. Cingle 521 emergency fund for streets for repairs such as the fiasco on Holland Road.

Mr. Cingle responded correct.

Mr. Scott stated was on Council in 2016-2017 when three estimates were given for the roof and walls and stated then not in favor of a pool until what needs to be done underneath. There is a difference of the estimates with having a pool or not having a pool. With sharing of the pools did speak with a neighboring recreation center about having our residents use their pool and the response given was what does Brook Park have to offer them. For seven years, I've been talking about this city, Council, administration and residents have to decide what kind of city do we want. This city needs a dedicated income stream for infrastructure, roads and buildings. This \$1.6 million-dollars is a good number but it takes \$45 to \$50 million-dollars to get roads done. In 2014, residents decided to keep this city status-quo, well here we are. We as a city need a dedicated revenue stream for roads this \$1.6 million-dollars is just scratching the surface. Resident must decide how they want this city to be and be willing to invest. There have been library levies, Tri-C levies and school levies passed for different parts of the county. Nothing has been done to improve this city since 1992 and a dedicated revenue stream is needed. I will continue to talk about this until the residents realize this is your city and we cannot bring in new businesses unless the roads and buildings look good. The safety building needs to be torn down and a new one needed. This Council, the administration and the residents have to come together and say we want this for our city. Every year we go through this budget by robbing Peter to pay Paul. I don't know what it's going to take for people to decide what you want to do. I want this city to improve and I want people to come to Brook Park and live in Brook Park. This may not be politically correct but a tax levy is needed for this city. Brook Park must decide what you want your city to look like.

Mr. Mencini stated would like to have a senior room so add that to the list. In May, we won't hear about roads we'll hear about flooding. Then someone says businesses are needed in this city. We won't get 45 streets done in one year and have asked former Mayors what is the city plan. Would like to see more and need to get businesses here but things that need to be looked at is inflation, income tax reimbursements and possibly an upcoming war. We need to look at our city and being hones I don't want to go to another pool, want to go here. The walls need to get fixed and take care of our employees. This city has a lot of needs and must need to address them. Need to start talking about a budget in October or November. This is a good Council with their own opinion and where we have to go. There has to be teamwork and as Mr. Scott stated where do you want to go as a city.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer stated don't ask what your city can do for you ask what you can do for your city. With the pool roof and walls can't get into discussion of a pool and have stood at that lecture saying just get the roof and walls done. Let's not concern ourselves with what will be in there; let's concern ourselves with getting the roof and walls done. In 2014, there was talk of the recreation center closing and residents voted no on a property tax for a dedicated recreation stream. Last year \$1.2 million-dollars came out of the general fund for roads that's the reason for more money last year; there was nothing taken out of the general fund this year. Also, keep in mind in the capital fund there are two police cars for \$110,000.00 and most likely believe we will lease more. With leasing for five years that cuts the city's capital for roads.

Madam Coyne mentioned a few meetings ago I brought up a participatory budget of what the people want. The Mayor is doing the best he can with what he has. The reason I brought up the safety of the walls and roof needs to be fixed. My main concern is that being a separate entity from the roads program.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, this was discussed.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

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

Moved by **motion** to the beginning of the meeting.

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

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

NAYS: Unanimous

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Carol Johnson
Carol Johnson
Clerk of Council

APPROVED August 23, 2022

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