

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE CAUCUS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

III. DISCUSSION:

1. COUNCIL RULE

2. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
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The meeting was called to order by Council President Salvatore at 6:00 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

TROYER, ROBERTS, DUFOUR, POINDEXTER, MENCINI, McCORKLE, SCOTT

Also in attendance were Mayor Orcutt, Finance Director McGann, Safety Director Sensel, Service Director Beyer, Recreation Program Coordinator Mendoza and Engineer Piatak.

DISCUSSION:

1. COUNCIL RULE

Mr. Salvatore stated one of the rules is the usage of cell phones; if they are going to be used (on the dais) then change the (Council) rules. Asked Council to think about that and discuss at another meeting. A complaint was brought to my attention, so if Council is going to have rules then let's follow them.

Mr. Troyer concurred, don't like changing the rules slowly should be changed all at once to see how they affect something else. Submit changes and have discussion on all the changes.

Mr. Salvatore stated any Councilmember can make any changes to the rules.

Mr. Dufour stated rule number nine (9) passed earlier this year outlines the process for cell phones.

2. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mayor Orcutt stated would like to answer some questions that came up from the recent Special Caucus meeting. The first question was from Councilman Poindexter regarding why the increase in Fund 341 - Recreation Center. For 2024 the salary is \$368,000.00; 2023 - \$301,000.00. Reason for the increase is people were moved up in positions i.e. Recreation Director and Program Coordinator. On the estimated revenue budget, page one (1) under Fund 100 - General Fund line item Recreation Programs revenue in 2021 - \$80,000.00; 2022 - \$112,000.00; 2023 - \$148,000.00 that is for memberships, classes and things of that nature. Looking at revenue page two (2) Fund 250 - Special Recreation Fund line item Miscellaneous Revenue for 2021 - \$82,000.00; 2022 - \$141,000.00;

Discussion; cont.

2023 - \$158,000.00 and estimating for 2024 - \$155,000.00. The recreation programs are generating revenue and there is a need to bring one (1) person back, putting salaries back to pre-Covid numbers.

Mr. McGann stated there were questions about Miscellaneous Expenses for various departments last meeting for funds 412, 413, 423 and 432. Those amounts are for gasoline expenses with gasoline being volatile commodity. Every year a buffer is put into the budget in case of gasoline spikes and snow removal also includes (road) salt. There was another question as to how many employees are in Fund 240 - Street, Construction, Maintenance and Repair (SCMR) and the answer is six (6). An amendment is needed in Fund 500 - Legal Department line item Personnel Services to be increased by \$100,000.00 for a total of \$452,278.97, for an additional employee that wasn't replaced during for Covid.

Mayor Orcutt stated the budget presentation made last week was good, any questions.

Mr. Scott thanked Mayor, administration and department heads for preparation of this budget, good budget, taking input from everyone.

Mr. McCorkle agreed with Mr. Scott and thanked Mayor Orcutt and Finance Director McGann and working with Council.

Mr. Mencini thanked Mayor Orcutt for bringing the budget, must work together.

Mr. Poindexter stated fairly decent budget, have some questions. Would like to see the bids for the roof and walls, have asked on several occasions, think it is irresponsible to set money aside without a complete total. The bid received from the former Mayor was \$3.2 million-dollars which is a 66% increase. Inflation hasn't gone up 66% nor have building materials gone up 66%. Secondly, where the inflation is on the new bid compared to the old bid and if the bid is that high will there be a rebid?

Mayor Orcutt responded the bids received were \$5.1 million-dollars and the inflation was presented by the contractors and yes, as stated last week, should get a second opinion.

Mr. Poindexter continued there is no breakdown of the bids?

Mayor Orcutt responded Construction Resources utilized the bid package by the previous administration and based their figures on that.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Poindexter asked Mr. Piatak with the Holland Road project from Eastland Road to the railroad tracks. Are you confident that the joint repairs with the grant received from Cuyahoga County will make the road sustainable? If not, what would a rough estimate be to have work done from Eastland Road to the railroad tracks?

Mr. Piatak responded don't have an estimate for the reconstruction cost. Am confident that the proposed work will be a successful project. The project done in 2007 the repairs are still intact; the concrete will deteriorate, due to weather. The assistance from the county will provide additional life of what's there.

Mr. Poindexter continued like the mill and fill (road program) but that is a temporary solution. Am disappointed that this budget does not contain, at least, one (1) full-depth repair.

Mayor Orcutt responded the administration would like to see full-depth reconstruction in areas of Brook Park, as well. Areas of the roof (recreation center) are caving in and the pool was shut down since January 1, 2015. With former Mayors we knew that was an issue that was brought to attention and nothing was done. In 2022, there were no monies put into the budget and now have taken \$1.8 million-dollars from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to be put towards the roof and walls. With the recent ruling by the Supreme Court on the 2020 income tax rebate checks money was put into that fund. Also, able to write a grant that hopefully will be successful from the state capital. Money being appropriated this year for the (roof and walls) is \$3.4 million-dollars, the administration sees this as a priority. Would like to see a full-depth construction project somewhere but can't have both.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. Piatak with the matching grant from the county (Holland Road) can those grant monies be used for a full-depth repair?

Mr. Piatak responded the city has a \$250,000.00 reimbursement to reconstruct instead of joint repairs would think so but would have to check with the county.

Mr. Poindexter stated with a full-depth from Eastland Road to the railroad tracks can joint repairs continue on east side of the tracks and be covered by the grant?

Mr. Piatak responded would think so.

Mr. Dufour last street rating data-base I have is 2022; is there anything in this budget to re-evaluate the streets?

Discussion: cont.

Mayor Orcutt responded are utilizing that database, most up to date, and accurate. The roads seen in the 2024 Roads Program have been discussed in past years and are now getting done. For example, Park Drive has been talked about for the last ten (10) years and is now on the list for repairs, Delores as well being a secondary roadway.

Mr. Dufour mentioned the City of Berea hired a company, Pavement Technologies, to evaluate roads with a high-rated camera. Secondly, monies have been allocated for a storefront program asked Mayor Orcutt for more details.

Mayor Orcutt responded the program is to provide financial assistance to existing or new businesses for grant and loan for repairs i.e. painting, new awning, etc., for outside of buildings.

Mr. Dufour continued the City of North Royalton has a storefront rebate program or is this like what other cities have with a revolving loan fund; or a combination of both?

Mayor Orcutt responded combination of both with a grant and loan program. If a business needs help with repairs the city will be able to provide a loan with a small interest payment; that would cover administrative fees. The grant program is something that the city has done for many years to assist businesses by working with someone to make an investment to their business, which would be a good return to the city.

Mr. Dufour continued the hotel-motel tax fund hasn't been touched in sometime. Would assume most of those funds allocated come from Snow Road; could some of those funds be used for the Snow Road corridor?

Mayor Orcutt responded that is evaluated by application and those funds are utilized by ordinance, if all criteria are met then yes.

Mr. Roberts stated good budget and commended Mr. McGann, first year on the job, and having the budget done in February. This is a city-wide budget and monies have been put in for Doris and Robert Drives; Snow Road corridor project and the Wengler retention basin.

Mayor Orcutt responded would like to have more roads done that's the reason we're here for production. The budget way it is laid-out is by diversifying the revenue in all areas i.e. flooding mitigation dollars given to the engineer to build construction documents for another retention basin, wanting to preserve Snow Road that was done prior to Covid.

Discussion: cont.

Mr. Troyer asked Mr. McGann what is the structural deficit of the budget to date?

Mr. McGann responded in the General Fund the structural deficit, including the \$100,000.00 amendment, is approximately \$771,000.00.

Mr. Troyer stated one (1) issue with this budget is in Fund 415 - Building Department and putting \$71,000.00 into an old building. When speaking about the (recreation center) roof and walls could utilize that area for the building department to be under one (1) campus. Putting money into sound insulation fund to be used for the (City of Cleveland vs. City of Brook Park) lawsuit. That's a lot of money but if the lawsuit is won in favor of the residents and city that's a good thing. There is money to do more streets and recommend leaving Burton Drive on the contingency (list) and since it is a neighborhood, continue with Delores Blvd. and Richard Drive at the bottom part of Fry Road. Working together does not mean following a dictator, working together means back and forth.

Mayor Orcutt responded looking at the Roads Program worksheet the \$3,120,000.00 is for quite a bit of work being done evenly throughout the entire city. One area being done very heavily is to address a capital need for construction documents for 12 or 13 residents for conversion of septic systems. Working with the engineer for a grant was successful to pay for a certain portion of the construction documents. That will not pay for the actual program of tying into the mains but does take a step. The other issue talked about in the past was the flooding of Sheldon Road at Abrams Creek. Working with the engineer and service director the city applied and received a grant for \$1,120,000.00 that will be 100% reimbursed for the construction documents for a bridge; does not build the bridge but is step one (1). The city has five (5) unions and have been successful with negotiations with three-year contracts and raises increasing every year. If funds are drains could run into an issue of not being able to pay raises already contracted for.

Mr. Troyer mentioned like starting a program to maintain the streets with the overlay but existing city streets are not being maintained. In the SCMR fund there are six (6) employees so every sunny day when asphalt is ready roads should get repaired.

Mr. Mencini commented there are many needs in this city and bold moves are needed for the future, important thing is working together.

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Poindexter, discussed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Scott, Poindexter, Dufour, Roberts, Troyer, McCorkle, Mencini

NAYS: Unanimous.

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

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Dufour, Troyer, Roberts, Poindexter, McCorkle, Scott
NAYS: Unanimous.

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.