

THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 24, 2017

PRESENT: Council President Gallo, Council Members Koch, Everett, McCall, Danczak, Verdile, Stavole and Clerk of Council Bohdan

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Michael Byrne, Director of Law Pokorny, Director of Finance and Personnel Hickey, Asst. Law Director Schneider, Director of Public Service Patten, City Engineer Onyak, Director of Community and Economic Development Sebes, Director of the Senior Center McLaughlin and Director of Recreation Moran

ABSENT: City Engineer Neff

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gallo at 8:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Verdile motioned seconded by Councilwoman Everett to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2017 Council meeting.

Aye: Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole and Everett

Nay: None

Abstain: McCall

APRIL 10, 2017 COUNCIL-MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

Councilman McCall presented the report of the Finance Committee with total expenditures for the period of 4/1/2017 through 4/20/2017 to be \$576,827.17. (detailed report attached)

Council President Gallo explained that we are going to deviate just a bit from the agenda tonight. We are going to reserve the Mayor's report, the Service Director's report and the City Engineer's report until right before the Public Session portion of the Council meeting.

Tom Moran, Director of Recreation

- Baseball/Softball draft was last week and practice will start May 1st. We are still taking registration in person at City Hall without a late fee.
- Sand Volleyball draft was last week and we are still taking registration in person at City Hall.
- Cassidy Theatre's final production of "Titanic" was this weekend and the last two shows were sold out.
- Valley Forge Open Swim final day is Tuesday, April 25th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- This session of Yoga starts tonight and the class is full.
- Soccer season started this past weekend.
- Pool Registration for passes, lessons and swim team will take place on Saturday, May 6th and May 13th. Online registration will start on May 5th.
- Tennis registration will also take place on Saturday, May 6th and May 13th. Online registration start on May 5th.

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Judy McLaughlin, Director of the Senior Center

- No Report.

Councilman McCall asked if the assistant fire chief had purchased the additional smoke detectors for the seniors. Director Hickey replied that the Fire Department just put through the requisition to purchase the additional smoke detectors.

Joe Sebes, Director of Community and Economic Development

- No Report.

Terrence Hickey, Director of Finance and Personnel

- No Report.

LEGISLATION

Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to read the following resolution by title only.

Aye: Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett and McCall
Nay: None

RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Councilwoman Danczak read A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR THE 2017-2018 WINTER SEASON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. ONE READING ONLY.

Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to suspend the rules.

Aye: Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall and Danczak
Nay: None

RULES SUSPENDED.

Councilwoman Danczak explained that this legislation gives authority to the Director of Public Service to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's contracts for the purchase of machinery, materials, supplies or other articles.

Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to approve this resolution.

Aye: Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak and Gallo
Nay: None

RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED. RESOLUTION IS NO. 2017-6.

Councilman McCall motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo and Koch
Nay: None

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Councilman McCall read AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATTER; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. ONE READING ONLY.

Councilman McCall motioned seconded by Councilwoman Everett to suspend the rules.

Aye: Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo, Koch and Verdile
Nay: None

RULES SUSPENDED.

Councilman McCall motioned seconded by Councilwoman Danczak to approve this ordinance.

Aye: Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile and Stavole
Nay: None

ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED. ORDINANCE NO. 2017-7.

Councilwoman Everett motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: McCall, Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole and Everett
Nay: None

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Councilwoman Everett read AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GOVPLANET, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSING OF OBSOLETE CITY VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AT A PUBLIC SALE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. ONE READING ONLY.

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Councilwoman Everett motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to suspend the rules.

Aye: Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett and McCall

Nay: None

RULES SUSPENDED.

Councilwoman Everett explained that this legislation allows GovPlanet to provide their auction services for the disposal of the City's obsolete vehicles and equipment.

Councilwoman Everett motioned seconded by Councilwoman Koch to approve this ordinance.

Aye: Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall and Danczak

Nay: None

ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED. ORDINANCE NO. 2017-8.

Councilman Stavole motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: Koch, Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak and Gallo

Nay: None

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Councilman Stavole read AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE VT651 PURE VACUUM SWEEPER VIA A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON PUBLIC CAPITAL CORPORATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO SAID AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. ONE READING ONLY.

Councilman Stavole motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to suspend the rules.

Aye: Verdile, Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo and Koch

Nay: None

RULES SUSPENDED.

Councilman Stavole explained that the new VT651 sweeper would replace the current sweeper.

Councilwoman Koch asked Director Patten why the request for new equipment is in the spring and not in the fall so that is available for use in the spring and summer. Director Patten replied that the cost-sharing fund through the NEORSB will be paying for the sweeper and we wanted to wait until the fund had the sufficient funds to cover the cost.

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Francis Weakland, 6928 Maplewood, asked if the sweeper being purchased would replace the current sweeper. Director Patten said it would. Mr. Weakland claims he has not seen the street sweeper on his street in 10 years. Director Patten assured him it has been on his street. Mr. Weakland asked for proof. Director Patten said he would supply Mr. Weakland work order sheets that have been signed off and will tell him exactly when the sweeper has been on Maplewood.

Councilman Stavole motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to approve this ordinance.

Aye: Stavole, Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo, Koch and Verdile.

Nay: None

ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED. ORDINANCE NO. 2017-9.

Mayor Michael Byrne

I would like to update you and everyone here regarding the flooding we experienced on Wednesday night. I definitely became aware that early evening we became inundated with phone calls from residents regarding back up in their lines and so forth. I happen to be coming home when I hit it and by the time I got up here to City Hall portions of Pearl Road were shut down as well as Ames. We were taking on quite a few calls through dispatch, through the Emergency Dispatch in Parma. We brought in additional people to answer the phones and so forth. Director Patten and I met and immediately called and had three crews; Dennis had two crews that were dealing with clogged lines and so forth. The velocity had so much impact we put one crew on, there were manhole covers that were being blown off the street. The force of the water going through the lines. We had one crew just putting manhole covers back on and checking those lines. We started in the Meadowbrook/Woodview area and came across quite a few residents that had experienced flooding in the backyard on one side of the street, on the other side we ran into residents that had lived there for over 40 years and had never experienced one day of flooding. We went into their houses and saw that their basements had flooded. One of the families already had ServPro out that was addressing the flooding. They had never flooded either. So we stayed with the crews that were out that were opening up lines and so forth. We kept them out well after midnight. We came back and checked on the phone calls and they kept coming in. I left around 12:30 a.m. Dennis and the rest of the crew was still here. On Thursday, we met with the Emergency Management Team from Cuyahoga County as well as the Red Cross. The Emergency Management Team from the county and what they want to do was assess the damage, take a look at the areas that were stricken hard and see if they could lend assistance. We were told and hoped that they would be able to provide some assistance to cleaning some of the basements out. Unfortunately, none of the homes or the areas they checked into met their thresholds. The Red Cross, we did not meet their threshold for assistance, although the Red Cross did leave numbers with us to forward to residents, especially those that may be disabled. The did leave some clean-up material and so forth. That was on Thursday morning, immediately we contacted Republic who does our rubbish pick-up, our bulk pick-up and so forth, to see if we could get a truck over to help with some of the debris. Of course, their schedule, as they are

contracted with other communities, they were in the process of bulk pick-up in other communities. Instead of waiting and delaying until they could assist us, the City went out and leased a rubbish truck. We got that out on the street Friday morning and that truck hit the streets. We have designated a crew to that, they have been out Friday, they have been out Saturday, and Sunday they are off because the landfill is closed. They were out again today. We have met this afternoon with the engineer and we are still compiling data. We are doing a comparison of the complaints that have come in this year, 2017 and comparing to the one in 2011. Engineer C.J. will be able to fill you in a little bit more. Once we get all the information, we received over approximately 300 calls plus e-mails and so forth, we will start to target the areas of each house, of each street that was hit. Do a comparison back to 2011 and talk about some options and what might we can do to alleviate this from ever happening again in the future. I would hope that it could be one issue that we could do to repair this but I just don't think that is what it is going to be. Unfortunately, part of the problem is out of our control. Part of the problem was the amount of rain that came down in a specific amount of time. We did look at some graphs today that seemed like the cell that really hit, hit Brook Park, southern part of Brooklyn, which was where Sam's Club and Brookpark Road was, came through Middleburg sat in Parma Heights, sections of Parma. I think those were the worse. Anywhere from just under 3" to 2 1/2" where surrounding communities, North Royalton had about a 1/2" in the same amount of time and Strongsville had even less than that. That is something we are never going to be able to control. No matter what we learned back in 2011 no matter what type of system you have in place, when you get the amount of water we did in a short period of time it's just hard to overcome that. It's next to impossible. There are some other options that we may have, everything from monitoring the flow when we just have regular rains, to keeping monitors in there when an absorbent amount of rain comes down, to the testing that can be done on some of the lines. But going back to 2011, I know C.J. is prepared to go into a little bit more in depth, he can tell you what we have done since 2011. We have been very aggressive with putting into place preventative maintenance issues, the amount of time we have cleaned out the sewers, as well as consistently cleaning out the catch basins. Back in 2011, we found a couple catch basins that were jammed full, completely full. That is not the case; we got a schedule that addresses that. So right now, the phase that we are in is still the cleanup. I ask for patience, we only have the one truck and we are trying to work something out with Republic to lend some assistance. Everybody else in those communities I mentioned is trying to get additional help. So we have the truck leased and we will keep the truck as long as it takes to get it cleaned up. We only have one crew on that. I just ask for some patience as we continue to compile the information, sit down with the engineers and see what we can do moving forward to try to do everything that we can to prevent this from ever happening again. Like I said, I was in basements on Wednesday night and I am extremely fortunate that the only damage I had was outside, lawn, landscape things like that. But I was in houses that, I saw the sewage, I saw appliances that were ruined and so forth. I feel for everyone that has experienced that and is going through it. So with that, and we will take questions afterwards, if our Service Director Patten or Engineer Onyak wants to fill anything else in or add to my comments.

C. J. Onyak, Engineer

On Wednesday night, I was actually at my desk working in our office on York Road when the rain hit. The first floor of our office completely flooded and that never happened in the entire existence of our building, which was built in 1997. Just based on that observation alone, that rainfall event on Wednesday was probably the hardest in the short period of time that we have seen in at least the last 20 years. The Mayor mentioned that the last time we had a significant flooding event like that was in 2011. At that time the City issued questionnaires out to the residents that experienced flooding, some of you may have been aware of that back in 2011. We took the information from the questionnaires and created maps so we could determine where the flooding occurred most and there was actually flooding throughout the entire City but there obviously are areas that are more concentrated when there are many houses on a single street that experienced flooding. Since that time in 2011, the City has been very proactive in investing money in the sewers. For the past six years, the City has been spending on average at least \$1.1 million on sewer maintenance and repairs. That is everything from televising all of the sewers to make sure there is no collapsed pipe, making sure they are clean, flushing the sewers, cleaning catch basins and that \$1.1 mill is just the portion of work that we work with the County to perform. We also have private contracts outside of those. For example, last year we had a private contract that was bid to reconstruct 50 catch basins. Every year we have been replacing catch basins, rebuilding catch basins, and making sure they get clean. Right now with a contract we have with the County, we basically are on a three-year cycle where we try to make sure at least once every three years every section of sewers is televised to make sure they are clean and operating correctly. That has been ongoing at least since 2011 and will continue to occur. What we need to do now with this recent flooding issue updated questionnaires to all the areas that flooded again so that we can get that information back in to better understand what flooding occurred, and where so we can compare that against the previous flood event in 2011. That will help us to refocus our efforts on where we invest our money and improvements and make sure we try to alleviate this as quickly and efficiently as possible. When the questionnaires come out it is very important that we get accurate information back. One part of that information is where that flooding is coming from. If your basement floods, it could be coming up through the drains in the floor, which is a result of the sanitary sewer being overwhelmed or it could also be coming through walls or foundation, which is completely separate and has to do more with the storm sewer systems. When you get those questionnaires, there will be a number if you have any questions, but it is important to answer those as accurately as possible so that we have the best information to work with moving forward. Even before this recent flood event, the City Engineer and myself have been meeting with agencies to try to come up with solutions for some of our issues. We have had minor flooding ever since 2011 not to this degree but just three or four weeks ago we met with Big Creek Connect to come up with some project that we think are viable, that we think we can get funding for and we have been pursuing additional funding for those types of projects. One of the projects I have been meeting with Service Director Dennis Patten with over the past few weeks before the storm is the possibility of adding a detention pond up at Nathan Hale Park. Right now, we have a lot of athletic fields up there but one of the main

quadrants of the City that gets hit the most flooding is that Maplewood, Meadowbrook and Woodview and all those streets. Nathan Hale is upstream of that so if we could put a detention basin in at Nathan Hale and catch that water and hold it back during those storms events it will help reduce the pressure on those sewers downstream through that entire area. The last thing I would just like to add is that I would say that over the past few days the City has gotten over 300 sewer calls and I have gotten a number calls directly as well and I am working my way through those calls. Anybody who has called me directly will absolutely get a phone call back, hopefully within the next couple of days as we try to get caught up.

Dennis Patten, Director of Public Service

The City has two sewer crews out. We have had them out since storm hit the other night. We worked Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We will keep two crews going until we catch up. We are looking at putting some flow monitors in after we get the information back so we can monitor some of these sanitary sewers and see what the flows are on a regular rain occurrence. Start figuring out where our infiltration is coming from so we can better understand how to get the stormwater out of the sanitary sewer. Engineer Neff, Onyak, the Mayor and everybody are working as a team on this. I know it is frustrating. We have this garbage truck out. We started on Maplewood on Friday and I know as we were going down the street people were putting stuff out after we left. We will make it back through but we finished on Commonwealth today and we should be down Meadowbrook now working our way back up towards Blossom. Some of the streets as you are well aware; every single house has stuff in front of it. It is a 25-yard garbage truck we are filling it up, the stuff is wet so we have to watch what we do because we had trouble unloading it the first couple of trips we made, and we are getting there. We are going to stay at it, we are working overtime, and we are emptying it so we can keep this thing rolling until we can get everything cleaned up. So we ask you to be patient.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Gallo reminded the audience if they have a comment to stand, state their name, address and city if they live outside of Parma Heights and there is a three-minute limit to speak. All comments and questions will be directed to the Council President.

Francis Weakland, 6928 Maplewood, complained that the flooding in his neighborhood started in 2007 when a new development was going in behind their house. When the flood in 2011 happened, Mr. Weakland claimed that Mr. Neff said that there was a large retention basin in the new development and he would check to see if it was tied in. Supposedly, it is not tied in and asked to have someone check on that. Mr. Weakland also complained about the property maintenance of that development not being enforced.

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Pam Trunk, 6880 Maplewood, explained that they live on the corner near the gravel drive. The water was so high they could not get out of their driveway, the gravel is everywhere, and it is a mess. Director Patten stated the Service Department would be out tomorrow to check the situation. Ms. Trunk thanked him.

Mary Ann Fredrick, 6937 Maplewood, stated that the property value of our homes is highly affected by the flooding as well as the expense to replace the items that are lost. She fears that the insurance companies could drop homeowners if flooding continues to be an issue.

Dave Bober, 6994 Greenleaf, his home was flooded but he wanted to thank the City for the help they have provided. The Service Department was out today to clean-out his storm and sanitary lines. A couple of weeks ago they removed a dead tree and he wanted to point out the positives.

Christina Farinella, 6836 Beresford, explained that she keeps an 8" bucket outside to measure the rain. In 2011, they received 4" of rain. During this 2 ½-hour storm, she received 5" of rain. She said she had asked the City in 2011 if they could disconnect their downspouts from the garage and let the water go into the backyards. Ms. Farinella also asked since they would be reconstructing Beresford this year, could they possibly put in an underground water retention tank on Beresford.

Jean Trimpe, 6857 Greenleaf, she thanked the Service Department for all of their help during the storm. She asked when residents would find out about the Nathan Hale retention basin. Director Patten explained that he is working with Engineer Neff and Onyak and researching this project. Once they have definite plans, they will let the community know. Director Sebes also explained that Big Creek Connect is an organization that works to get federal funding for projects like the retention basin and the City is working with them to help get funding for this project. Ms. Trimpe asked if the Service Department would be out again to pick up rubbish from the storm again. Director Patten replied they would be but it would not be in the next couple of days. Ms. Trimpe was also concerned that seniors and/or residents are being taken advantage during this situation. Director Patten explained that there are people being taken advantage of. They need to call the City and the Service Department will check their sewers. The Service Department will let them know if something should be done. She asked if the construction on Pleasant Valley Road contributed to this flooding. Engineer Onyak assured her it did not. Ms. Trimpe asked if the City felt the cleaning of the catch basins and sewer lines every three years was sufficient. Director Patten explained that the City does contract with the County for work on the City's sewers and catch basins but we also contract with private contractors. The County has added additional shifts to help with the need for further cleanings.

Marcia Smith, 6777 Greenleaf, stated that she recently visited Cassidy Theatre for a show. They arrived 45 minutes early and had to park near the Tennis Courts. Most of the people at the show were older and she wondered if the City could offer a shuttle for those who have to park so far away. Also, she noted that there is not a bench from the Tennis Courts to the theatre to sit and rest if you have to walk that far.

Mayor wanted to thank everyone that showed up this evening and expressed their concerns. He thanked them for their patience and understanding and acknowledged their frustrations but assured them the City was doing everything to alleviate this problem. The Mayor appreciated those residents that acknowledged the Service Department for their hard work.

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Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman Stavole to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: Everett, McCall, Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile and Stavole

Nay: None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Florence A. Bohdan
Clerk of Council



Marie Gallo
Council President