

THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2019

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Byrne, Law Director Pokorny, Director of Finance and Personnel Hickey, Director of Public Service Patten, Engineer Neff, Director of Community and Economic Development Sebes, Director of Recreation Tal and Assistant Law Director Schneider.

ABSENT: Councilman McCall and Stavole

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gallo at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilwoman Everett to excuse the absence of Councilman Stavole.

Aye: Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile and Everett

Nay: None

COUNCILMAN STAVOLE IS EXCUSED FROM THE JUNE 24, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilwoman Everett motioned seconded by Councilwoman Danczak to excuse the absence of Councilman McCall.

Aye: Danczak, Gallo, Koch, Verdile and Everett

Nay: None

COUNCILMAN MCCALL IS EXCUSED FROM THE JUNE 24, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilman Verdile motioned seconded by Councilwoman Danczak to approve the June 10, 2019 Council meeting minutes.

Aye: Gallo, Koch, Verdile, Everett and Danczak

Nay: None

JUNE 10, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

Council President Gallo presented the report of the Finance Committee with total expenditures for the period of 6/8/2019 through 6/21/19 to be \$841,814.33 (detailed report attached).

Joe Tal, Director of Recreation

- No report.

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Joe Sebes, Director of Community and Economic Development

- No report.

Dan Neff, Engineer

- ODOT has a pre-construction meeting scheduled for June 27th for the W. 130th resurfacing project.

Dennis Patten, Director of Public Service

- No report.

Terrence Hickey, Director of Finance and Personnel

- The variety of notes that Council approved will sell this Thursday and the monies will be transferred into the City's account. The rate on the notes is 2 ½%.

Mayor Michael Byrne

- The Mayor explained that the double homicide that happened in the City has to an end. The person was found guilty. The Prosecutor's Office complimented the Detective Bureau on the great job they did.
- The Police and Fire Departments assisted in a Search and Rescue in the MetroParks. They were able to recover the victim unharmed.

Council President Gallo closed the Council meeting and open the floor for the Public Hearing on the 2020 Tax Budget.

Finance Director Hickey explained that the Ohio Revised Code requires a Public Hearing on the tax budget and the purpose of the tax budget is for the City to estimate its projected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming budget year so that the County Budget Commission can determine the level of property tax that needs to be levied by the City in 2020. He also stated that the County Budget Commission could only set property tax rates up to the limited requested in the Tax Budget. The property tax revenues requested in the 2020 Tax Budget would require an increase in the valuation, whether through any county wide adjustments or due to improvements to real property in Parma Heights within the past year. This buffer allows the City to levy the maximum 10.0 mills of property tax allowed by the City Charter.

Director Hickey went into a detailed explanation of significant revenue and expenditure items and the assumptions he used to develop the 2020 Tax Budget.

Council President Gallo asked if there were any questions regarding the 2020 Tax Budget. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Tax Budget.

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Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilman Verdile to accept the 2020 Tax Budget.

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

2020 TAX BUDGET APPROVED.

LEGISLATION

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

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

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Clerk Bohdan read AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, BY AMENDING 151.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. ONE READING ONLY.

Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilwoman Koch to suspend the rules.

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

RULES SUSPENDED.

Councilwoman Danczak explained that this ordinance would amend Chapter 151.01(a), Personnel, to read, "The Department of Police shall be composed of one Chief of Police, up to two Captains, who shall be the Assistant Chiefs, eight Sergeants, 23 Patrolmen and such special police officers as the Mayor shall from time to time designate."

Councilwoman Danczak motioned seconded by Councilwoman Koch to adopt this ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED. ORDINANCE NO. 2019-26.

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.

Dale, Maxwell, 6835 Beresford Avenue, stated she was at the recent Charter Review meeting and the Fire Department was present while on duty. She wanted to know why they were there while they were working. The Mayor replied that they were on duty and on-call if anything happened.

Kathy Walsh, 11362 Blossom Avenue, first of all I would like to thank the Administration for the response to my public records request. But I was a little confused when I received the response. I would like to apologize if I wasn't clear in my request but I had thought I had asked what the total cost of the Cornerstone litigation was and this would be the total of the original assessment, plus interest paid on the total assessment, plus what the city has paid on the note for 11 years, which Mr. Hickey had referred to in his budget, legal fees for the litigation, the loss of interest on the capital that was tied into the litigation, and the total of the settlement. I took the figures given and did the math and came up with a total of \$1.3 mil that the litigation cost but I don't believe that the original note was for \$2,695,000, if I recall correctly, the note was for quite a bit more than that. In addition, my question about the pocket parks, the answer to the question was that they make \$10/hour. A \$10/hour employee does not cost the City \$10/hour, plus there is a depreciation of vehicles and gas and those all have to be added in to be the figure of what the maintenance is, it's just not somebody makes \$10/hour. And lastly, the sign for the bond, the figure, I also was told it was 2 ½%. Well there are figures that have to be added in to that. There is a cost to go out to the bond, there is legal cost, there is cost for the bond and that should be added in to the figure of what that piece of chattel is going to cost us for 20 years, not to mention that is \$20,000 less that we can borrow for 20 years for a street that may need to be fixed. The information was incomplete and I don't believe that we should answer anybody public records request with the answers that I got. I don't know how anybody can make an intelligent decision to formulate fiscal decisions on the answers that were given.

Lastly, the Attorney General stated that it empowers citizens to be watchdogs through public records and publishes a manual so public servants know their obligations and to promote transparency to ensure government accountability and that is what public records are for. Just one other thing, a question the \$13,639 that was paid in tax for the ice rink, was that paid by the tenant that is there or was that paid by the City.

Council President Gallo stated that Ms. Walsh is referring to the Athletic Center parcel, Director Hickey replied that the property tax for the last two years have been built into the lease amount that the owner of the soccer facility pays to the City.

Ms. Walsh, "so it's built into the monthly lease?" Director Hickey replied yes.

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Donna Marchese, 6453 Lawnwood Avenue, expressed her unhappiness with the chairperson of the Charter Review Commission not allowing a Public Session during the Charter meetings. She feels if the people have questions or concerns, they should be allowed to express themselves.

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilwoman Everett to adjourn.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Florence A. Bohdan
Clerk of Council



Marie Gallo
Council President

REPORT OF COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Review of City Expenditures)

COUNCIL MEETING:	
6/21/19	
REVIEW PERIOD:	
6/8/19 - 6/21/19	
EXPENDITURE TOTAL:	\$841,814.33
RE-CAP OF MAJOR EXPENDITURES:	AMOUNT:
6/21/19 PAYROLL	\$362,763.87
CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HTS - 5th Progress Pymt - Pearl Rd Project Engineering	\$54,355.17
CITY OF PARMA - Fee for Regional Dispatch Services (June)	\$36,962.31
KEY GOVT FINANCE - 6th of 6 Lease Pymts for 2016 Police Vehicles	\$34,779.59
SIBLEY - Final Payment on 2018 Library Roof Project	\$34,760.00
KEY GOVT FINANCE - 6th of 10 Lease Pymts for 2016 Rescue Squad	\$28,207.68
OHIO TREASURER - Ohio Public Works Loan Payments	\$13,837.91
COUNTY TREASURER - 2nd Half 2018 Property Tax (Athletic Center Parcel)	\$13,639.00