

THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2019

PRESENT: Council President Pro-Tem Koch, Council Members Everett, Danczak, McCall, Stavole and Clerk of Council Bohdan.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Verdile, Councilwoman Gallo and Director of Recreation Tal.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro-Tem Koch at 8:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to excuse the absence of Councilwoman Gallo.

Aye: McCall, Danczak, Koch, Stavole and Everett

Nay: None

COUNCILWOMAN GALLO IS EXCUSED FROM THE NOVEMBER 25, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING.

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

Aye: Danczak, Koch, Stavole, Everett and McCall

Nay: None

COUNCILMAN VERDILE IS EXCUSED FROM THE NOVEMBER 25, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING.

Council President Pro-Tem Koch stated that the Clerk has a statement from Councilman Verdile to read into the record.

Clerk Bohdan read the following, "I'd like to thank those members of Council who have excused my recent absences. Thank you for your support and understanding during this time of great difficulty. I never anticipated missing the amount of council meetings as I have. As we all know, sometimes the best-laid plans are in need of modification. Most likely I will be unable to attend the last council meeting of 2019. However, I want to congratulate Council President Gallo on her recent election to Council-at-Large, Councilman Stavole on his re-election and to Kathy Walsh on her election to Council-at-Large.

Also, my very best to Councilman Jim McCall and to his family, it has been a pleasure serving with you Jim and I wish you the very best as you move onto another chapter in your life.

To all my council colleagues, the Mayor and his administration, and most importantly the residents of Parma Heights who have been so supportive throughout the years, I wish you all a beautiful holiday season with your loved ones. God Bless you all. Councilman Bob Verdile.”

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman Stavole to approve the November 12, 2019 Council meeting minutes.

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman Stavole to approve the November 18, 2019 Special Council meeting minutes.

Aye: Koch, Stavole, Everett and Danczak
Nay: None
Abstain: McCall

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

Joe Tal, Director of Recreation

- No report in his absence.

Joe Sebes, Director of Community and Economic Development

- No report.

Dan Neff, Engineer

- In the next week there may be exploratory work done at Nathan Hale to test the soil.

Councilman McCall asked if there is an update on Parkhill, he feels there is a real issue that needs to be taken care of. Engineer Neff replied that the City has done a number of things over the years; we are on a list for the County to repair the problem. Engineer Neff stated he would contact the County to see where on the list this issue is and will pass it along to Council. Councilman McCall asked Council to continue to follow up on this item. Councilman McCall asked is it our responsibility to fix or the County's, Engineer Neff replied the County under our direction.

He stated that there is a thought that the banding around the pipes have given away, which would be a much more extensive repair.

Councilwoman Koch asked when the work on Pearl Road would start. Engineer Neff replied the contract was awarded to Karvo Paving and anticipating starting construction in April 2020 and the project will last two (2) years.

Dennis Patten, Director of Public Service

- No report.

Councilman Stavole asked if there has been any follow-up regarding the Big Creek Parkway sidewalks that residents came in and complained about a few weeks ago. Director Patten replied he has spoken to some of the residents and there is a contractor that has started to do some work in the area. Director Patten contacted the MetroPark and will be meeting with them regarding the issues.

Councilwoman Everett asked if those sidewalks were marked, Director Patten replied yes.

Councilman McCall thanked the staff who helped with the recent shredding event, it seemed like many residents utilized the service.

Katie Iaconis, Director of Finance and Personnel

- No report.

Mayor Michael Byrne

- The Mayor thanked Pam Owens and the Parma Park Choir they performed at the Christmas Tree Lighting event. He thanked Pastor Evan from the Cleveland Vineyard they supplied hot chocolate. Also, Plaid Tidings, who will be at the Cassidy Theatre from December 6th through December 22nd, performed at the tree lighting. The Mayor thanked Councilwoman Koch for assisting. He also thanked Councilwoman Everett and Councilman Stavole for contributing to the event.
- The Mayor stated, "I would like to take a moment and thank Councilmembers McCall, Koch, Danczak and Gallo for your support and compassion to fellow Councilman Bob Verdile by voting to excuse his recent absences from Council meetings. Bob has been a pillar in the Parma Heights community for several decades.

Bob has served as a councilman under three (3) mayors, Cassidy, Zannoti (where he served as Economic Development Director) and myself. He has served as Council President and as Council Pro-Tem.

He enjoys his status as Emeritus to the UH Hospital Board and Foundation. He is an active member and former officer to the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce as well as a member of other local organizations. Besides being such an outstanding public official, as a veteran, Bob has served our country with pride and dignity.

Without a doubt in my mind, I know if the tables were turned and a fellow councilmember was facing the challenges Bob is facing, without one bit of hesitation, he would have excused your absence.”

LEGISLATION

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

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

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Clerk Bohdan read AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2019 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, REPEALING ORDINANCE #2019-12, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND OF THREE READINGS.

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

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

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

Clerk Bohdan read AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2020 TO AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND OF THREE READINGS.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Pro-Tem Koch 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 will be directed to the Council President.

Donna Marchese, 6453 Lawnwood Avenue, asked why in the Charter revisions was Article IV, Section 2 totally crossed out. This is the required residency section of the Charter. Director Pokorny replied that residency requirements were abolished in a City of Cleveland case in the Supreme Court and Article XI, Section 10 talks about the deletion of obsolete language; this section is obsolete under the Supreme Court case.

Dale Maxwell, 6835 Beresford Avenue, asked if it was possible to get the published rubbish dates on magnets as they were in the past. Director Patten replied that Republic provided those for the residents but do to the cost they have done away with them.

Rick Schwachenwald, 6841 Commonwealth Blvd., asked about the timing of lights in the City. He stated that in the early morning when he leaves for work, he is stopped by most of the lights on Pearl Road. Engineer Neff stated that the State of Ohio commissioned a consultant to study the lights throughout the City, they did make an adjustment at that time and the City did not have any say in the adjustment. He stated the equipment throughout the City is very old. Signal Service is having difficulty finding the parts for our system. He stated there is a problem with the loop detectors. Engineer Neff states that he believes the City will need to update the system in the near future because of the difficulty in maintaining the current system.

Councilwoman Koch asked if Engineer Neff feels that something can be done in the near future. Engineer Neff replied he would continue to look for available monies to upgrade the system.

Councilman McCall commented that he spoke to Mrs. Verdile today, and asked to keep Bob in our prayers. He never met a person that loves the City as much as Bob Verdile does.

Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

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

COUNCIL ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LITIGATION AT 8:35 P.M.

Council reconvenes at 10:37 p.m.

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Councilwoman Koch motioned seconded by Councilman McCall to adjourn.

Aye: Stavole, Koch, Everett, Danczak and McCall

Nay: None

Meeting Adjourned at 10:37 p.m.



Florence A. Bohdan
Clerk of Council



Marie Gallo
Council President