



## City of Parma Heights Council Minutes February 27 2023

PRESENT: Council President Rounds, Council Members Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole and Clerk of Council Allen

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Marie Gallo, Director of Law Schneider, Director of Service Sepik, Safety Director Heffernan and Recreation Director Bacci.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Rounds at 7:08 p.m.

*Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.*

### COUNCIL MINUTES

February 13, 2023 Parma Heights City Council Work Session Minutes

Councilwoman Walsh motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to approve the Council Work Session Minutes

Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds  
Nay: None

*Minutes Approved*

February 13, 2023 Parma Heights City Council Minutes

Councilman Stavole motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to approve the Council Minutes

Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds  
Nay: None

*Minutes Approved*

### REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

Council President asked Assistant Finance Director Gross if he had a report for this evening...

Assistant Finance Director Gross: had no report but if there were any questions or concerns, he would be happy to address them.

Council President Rounds moved on to Recreation Director Bacci to begin.....

Recreation Director Bacci: A big shout out to our full-time staff Melissa, and our part-time staff Mary, Lexi and Autumn that had to step up quite a bit while I was away. They did an excellent job and I've only heard positive things since I've been back. We had our line dancing the last two weeks, we changed the time to the afternoon and nearly 50 people attended so we will continue to do it in the afternoon. We are continuing to hire and do interviews; we are still accepting applications for seasonal staff. We have hired 18 and we

10 more interviews this week to make sure that our parks and our pool are fully staffed for the summer. Sports are still ongoing. We have 105 registered for baseball, softball, and T-ball. Spring soccer is filling up quickly at 60 people currently registered and the swim team will open registration on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be exciting to have the city in charge of the swim team this year. Upcoming events include Leprechaun Hunt which is completely sold out on March 11<sup>th</sup>, so we plan on having 60+ hunters out looking for Leprechauns. Easter Egg dying will be in partnership with the Parma's Historical Society on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and our Annual Earth Day in the Commons Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4:00 p.m. and just to clarify, Earth Day is actually held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, but we will be celebrating a week late on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Any questions or comments for Director Bacci? Seeing none. Director Heffernan.....

Director Heffernan: You might have heard there was a fire in our city last night. On West Ridgewood, Parma Heights primary responded first, they were able to put the fire out rather quickly. The cities of Parma, Brook Park and Middleburg Heights also responded for mutual aid. City of Middleburg Heights transported the resident to the hospital for treatment. It was determined that it was a mistake, he was cooking and lost track of what was going on. His adult children live in the area so it wasn't necessary to bring Red Cross in and the fire department are going to go back into the home soon to determine what can be done with the home. Deer culling update, we are almost at our maximum number and interesting tidbit that goes along with this matter. There were 10 deer that were donated to the Geauga County Veterans Food Pantry and police took care of it as part of the program while the city employees donated to that they were butchered and delivered to the pantry for the Vets, ready to go. This program has been working very well. They guys doing it are impressive and self-motivated. They are pleased the way it's working.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Any questions or comments for Director Heffernan? Councilwoman Maruschak.....

Councilwoman Maruschak asked when would the deer culling be over?

Mayor Gallo responded that we are at 90 right now and we have permits to get 95, so I'm thinking within this week.

Council President Rounds: Any other questions for Director Heffernan? Seeing none. Thank you, Director. Director Sepik...

Service Director Sepik: Thank you Mr. President. Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our bulk pick-up this month. We are in receipt of our Bob Cat Skid-Steer. We ordered that over a year ago, just came in on Friday. The ice rink demolition project is about 50% down, they are separating the steel from the brick and will begin hauling always the debris once it's completely down.

Council President Rounds: Any questions for Director Sepik? Councilwoman DeSouza.....

Councilwoman DeSouza asked about the stop signs at Manorford and Denison had the flashing lights, one of the stop signs hasn't been flashing for a while now. Is there a reason do you know?

Service Director Sepik stated that we're aware of that, we're in contact with the company and they're going to send out a person to try to trouble shoot it to find out if it's on their end or if it's something we have to repair ourselves.

Council President Rounds: Any other questions or comments for Director Sepik? Seeing none. Mayor Gallo....

Mayor Gallo: Thank you Mr. President. In regards to the Senior Center, they served and/or delivered 1,173 meals in the last two weeks. They had their second volley ball match on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Donna Smallwood Center and we are pleased to announce that Parma Heights Seniors won 3 out of 4 games and brought home a trophy. They will be having a ceremony to honor those players. Each participant will receive a medal. The seniors are taking a bus to the new restaurant on W. 130<sup>th</sup> Little Italia on Thursday. The bus will be taking the seniors to a different fish fry every Friday (except St. Patrick's Day) during the month of March. The Department of Seniors and Adult Services funds have started to be disbursed, that is the grant that we received. The city's Recreational Trail Grant was approved for Nathan Hale and has been awarded in the amount of \$150,000. Thank you to Joe Sebes he does an excellent job of brining in grant funding for the city. Last year baseball, softball and t-ball programs had 160 children signed up. We already have 105 children and registration just opened this month and the program doesn't start until May. We anticipate the participants will exceed 160, Director Bacci and Melissa are making sure the information is getting out to the schools and have done an excellent job at getting the word out. The city went to arbitration with the IFF, our firefighters, we were awarded 5 of the 8 items that we were looking for including the elimination of the "me too" clause. The contract is done and more than likely will not come before council but wanted to let you know how things turned out. The NEO Soccer demolition is going well, on schedule and we haven't received any complaints on the project. The Nathan Hale basin project, we are still in the process, we will hopefully have something before council at the March 13 council meeting regarding the contract so that we can get started on this project hopefully in April. That concludes my report this evening.

Council President Rounds asked if there were any further questions for the mayor? Seeing none.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds we have no communications at this time.

### PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: If there is any public comment, please stand, state your name and address and please direct all comments to me, you are given 3 minutes to speak.

State Representative Sean Brennan for District 14, which is Parma, Parma Heights and part of West Park. You should be receiving some e-mail communications from me recently; I know it's a lot of information. I'll be serving on the state and local government committee as the ranking member, we meet tomorrow. Our first piece of legislation is a piece that's going to undo HB 509, that took local fire departments ability to in-house training away. It would basically increase the costs because it would require all of our EMS trainees to be trained at a accredited institution like Tri-C. We've got to undo what they did last year in the legislature proving that we need to include the people that work in this area in the conversation before passing legislation. I am one of the co-sponsors of the legislation and hope to get that done quickly because HB509 goes into effect April 6<sup>th</sup>. I saw on your agenda tonight, a resolution that will probably go to me, Nickie Antonio and to the Governor and others at the state, just know that after 19 years on the Parma City Council I'm all about being a voice for us to increase the local government funds. The Governor in the budget is proposing increasing the local government fund 1.66% - 1.7% which is nowhere near what it was pre-Governor Kasich and the other problem with the low increase is that HB1 will flatten the income tax and roll back some of the property taxes in the State of Ohio, would actually lessen the revenue for the state. 1.7% of what we have now compared to what we could have if the revenue drops, the amount that

goes to the cities will actually go down. I'm going to keep an eye on that and fight for those local government funds. It's getting harder and harder to attract police, fire, service workers so we need to get the local funds back up to where they were before. I'm just a phone call or e-mail away. Thank you.

Council President Rounds thanked Representative Brennan for his comments and thanked him for his work in Columbus. Thank you. Any other comments? Seeing none.

## LEGISLATION

### **2023 – 6: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilman Stavole motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds  
Nay: None

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE 2023 – 6 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.**

Council President Rounds: This is the second reading for this item.

### **2023 – 7: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilwoman Durichko motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to read the following resolution by title only.

Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds  
Nay: None

Clerk Allen read: **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 7 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOWEN + ASSOCIATES, INC., MUNICIPAL ENGINEER, TO PREPARE THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND COST ESTIMATES FOR THE CASSIDY THEATRE MECHANICAL UPGRADES PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilwoman Durichko motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Walsh to suspend the rules.

Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Rounds  
Nay: None

Council President Rounds: Are there any questions or comments on this item? Seeing none.

Councilwoman Durichko motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to move for passage.

Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds  
Nay: None

*Resolution Passes*

**2023 - 8: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to read the following resolution by title only.

Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds  
Nay: None

Clerk Allen read: **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 8 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to suspend the rules.

Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds  
Nay: None

Council President Rounds: Are there any questions or comments on this item? Seeing none.

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to move for passage.

Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds  
Nay: None

*Resolution Passes*

**2023 – 9: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilwoman Walsh motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds  
Nay: None

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 9 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-43, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION PAID TO VARIOUS EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, NUNC PRO TUNC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilwoman Walsh motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to suspend the rules.

Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Rounds  
Nay: None

Council President Rounds: Are there any questions or comments on this item? Seeing none.

Councilwoman Walsh motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to move for passage.

Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds  
Nay: None

*Ordinance Passes*

**2023 – 10: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilman Haase motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to read the following ordinance by title only.

Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds  
Nay: None

**Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 10 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM WITH SENSYS GATSO USA, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council President Rounds: And this is the first reading for this item.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council President Rounds made a motion to move into Executive Session, the reason is to discuss pending or eminent court action. Seconded by Councilman Stavole.

Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds  
Nay: None

Council President Rounds stated that they are going into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.


**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Rounds: Can I have a motion to adjournment.

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds  
Nay: None

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

  
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Barbara Allen  
Clerk of Council

  
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Tom Rounds  
President of Council