



**City of Parma Heights  
Council Minutes  
May 23, 2022**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Gallo, Director of Finance Iaconis, Director of Law Schneider, Director of Safety Heffernan, Director of Public Service Sepik, and Director of Recreation Allen.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Rounds at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

May 9, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds

Nay: None

Minutes Approved

**REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS**

Recreation Director Allen: The Service Department has been helping us get the pool ready to open Saturday, Sunday and Monday for Memorial Day weekend and then we will open June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the rest of the summer. June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day of school party also. We now have 25 lifeguards and 12 concession stand workers. We are planning a full schedule of swim lessons, adult swim lap times, water exercise classes, swim teams, activities and special events that will be happening at the pool. Chief Bernard has assisted with getting us an AD donated for the pool. We are working on having a Father's Day event at Yorktown Lanes. It was successful for Mother's Day so we're going to host Father's Day as well on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We are participating in a World-Wide Craft in Public Day at Greenbrier Commons. If you bring paint, yarn, or any craft materials, it's a low impact event, you come and just be social with other people and find other people that do similar crafts on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A new Girl Scout troop was formed in Parma Heights, tonight is their first meeting and they're the first one that they can find documentation that is centered in Parma Heights. We are working on the new Monarch pledge and hoping to continue the education about that. Our youth soccer team for U11 was up for the Championship, they didn't win however did a great job getting there. That happened at Nathan Hale and that was great getting to the Championship and hosting it as well. Yorktown Lanes has stepped forward and offered to host the baseball end of the season party and the soccer one will be at Greenbrier at the Cassidy Theatre.

Council President Rounds asked if the craft day is part of the Guinness Book of World Records event? Director Allen said it is not, it started with the Knit in Public Day, because the stereotype is that only grandma knits, it's to get folks to realize that many folks do these hobbies and you don't have to do them at home and in secret.

Councilwoman DeSouza asked how pool registrations coming? Director Allen responded that we are doing well, we haven't sold a great deal but it just opened up, many inquiries on prices, many have mentioned that they will purchase at the pool after it's opened.

Safety Director Heffernan: By the end of the week there will be three (3) additional police cars on the street. Bodycams expected to take arrive at the end of August. The agreement with North Royalton has been signed for the use of the jail. Since we have added the use of the National Testing Network the police have had 35 people re-test and 5 signed up and fire has had 36 testing and 15 signed up.

Service Director Sepik: This Saturday will be the first of three Community Shred Day events, May 28<sup>th</sup>, held between (9:00 and noon) in the tennis court parking lot. On June 11<sup>th</sup> we will have the Household Hazard Waste Collection, held at the garage. The Crossroads Asphalt repairs that are coming to an end this week are on Amrap, Kings Highway, Calamie, Doxmere, Westborough and Stoneham. They should be finishing up this week with cracks and sealing. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> Laylor Drive and Queens Highway Water Main Replacement project is scheduled to begin.

Councilman Stavole inquired if the residents been notified that we're going to begin on that project? Director Sepik responded yes; they have with hand delivered notices to their door.

Finance Director Iaconis: We haven't received our date as to when we are to receive our ARPA funds, expected to be about a million dollars. We still are in contract negotiations with the Police Sergeant's and Captains, and I am also continuing to work with the Fire Department. The patrol recently moved to the FOP so we have a contact there and will begin shortly with them. We have two grant applications that we are working with our County Representative and the mayor will elaborate further on that. With all the participation from the residents this evening I would like to encourage everyone if they qualify for the Homestead exemption to make sure you are getting it, and if you're not receiving your owner occupancy credit, please check and make sure you're getting that also, you only need to apply one time and then you'll continue to receive it.

Council President Rounds asked for Director Iaconis to remind us what the ARPA funds can be used for? Director Iaconis answered that the funds have been expanded for usage, but they put a great emphasis on infrastructure projects, so I believe that falls in line with what the mayor and council have been interested in having done within the city, the roads for example within the city.

Mayor Gallo: As Director Iaconis stated we applied for ARPA funding, our County Council Representative who represents Parma, Parma Heights and Middleburg Hts. has \$6 million dollars available. We are going for additional funding for the remainder of construction of North Church Drive to York Road and also monies to put toward the Nathan Hale Basin. Before you this evening is legislation to start the process and go out for bid and we expect to break ground in the next six months. The Senior Center's staff served and delivered 1,284 meals in the past two weeks. June is Elder Abuse awareness month, there will some information in the Newsletter where they will be talking about it at lunch on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Parma Heights is

also providing transportation from the Senior Center to the pool June through August for water exercise and senior only swim, that will also be included in the Newsletter. We are also signing up seniors for Ready Notify and have given the senior apartment buildings for the "Are You Okay" programs information and forms. Lastly, our Memorial Day Ceremony is Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Parma South Presbyterian Church. The city will be providing transportation for Veterans and seniors, to and from the Cemetery. One more note, to piggyback on Director Sepik's discussion on street improvements, the Snow Road area, the mill and fill project that we are working on, we have additional funds that council had legislated and Eureka will be milled and filled from Pearl to Edgehill. Elmore will also receive the same kind of attention and that will start this Wednesday, and residents have been notified. Thank you.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds: None at this time.

## LEGISLATION

### **2022 – 19: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.**

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

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

Clerk Allen read: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING AN EXPENDITURE FOR THE NATHAN HALE STORMWATER BASIN PROJECT, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER THEREFORE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilwoman Walsh moved to suspend the rules; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza

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

Council President Rounds are there any questions or comments? Seeing none.

Councilwoman Walsh moved for passage; seconded by Councilman Stavole

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

Ordinance passes.

### **2022 – 20: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.**

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

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

Clerk Allen read: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 678.01 ENTITLED "DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS AND REMOVAL OF LITTER REQUIRED" OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES.**

Council President Rounds: This is the first reading.

**2022 – 21: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.**

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

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

Clerk Allen read: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 965.11 ENTITLED "SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council President Rounds: This is the first reading.

**2022 – 12: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.**

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

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

Clerk Allen read: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT PROGRAM YEAR 2022 PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilwoman Maruschak moves to suspend the rules; seconded by Councilman Stavole

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

Council President Rounds any questions or comments? Seeing none.

Councilwoman Maruschak moved for passage; seconded by Councilman Stavole

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

Resolution passes.

## PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: For the new folks who are in attendance this evening, please know that this section is not meant to be a discussion or conversation but an opportunity for you to make your public comment. Please stand, state your name and address and please direct all comments to me and you have 3 minutes to speak. Council Clerk Allen will keep the time, and when you have 15 seconds remaining, she will raise her hand to allow you time to complete your comment.

Ms. Everett: Renee Everett, 10109 Eureka Parkway. I'm on both sides of the garbage issue. I agree it needs to be raised but I think it should be in small increments, our taxes are going up on our houses next year, Parma Heights is going up 23% which is a large jump and then you include an additional garbage increase, I think if you raised the trash over the next two years it would be better received, plus the school board is going to put a levy on too. Income is not going up with inflation so you have to think about all of that, before you just jump to the max. Thank you.

Ms. Maxwell: Dale Maxwell, 6835 Beresford Avenue. I'd just like to refresh council's memory that 12 years ago, it was the residents of the city that did the city a favor by starting to pay for garbage removal and Mayor Byrnes did say he would never increase the rates as long as he was mayor, but now you make it sound like the city has been doing us a favor by not increasing it over the years. We pay our taxes and they are increasing, so, what exactly are you doing for the residents?

Ms. Smith: Maureen Smith, 6618 Newbury Lane. Over the past couple of weeks, I've been watching Republic Waste put yard waste and blue cans together and here we are talking about raising what we pay for service that isn't being done the way it's supposed to be done. The yard waste isn't being composted like we were told it would be, I've called and the answer I get is, that they are short staffed. Maybe instead of raising the rates and staying with Republic Waste, maybe it's time to move on to another supplier? If they can't service us the way it was supposed to be done, at the rate that we are paying, what's going to happen if our fees go up? If the problem is that they don't have the staff, maybe the real problem is that they have too many contracts.

Ms. Adams: Janet Adams, 5860 Queens Highway. Isn't there an ordinance that states garbage cans shouldn't be put out before 4:00 p.m. the day before garbage is scheduled to be picked up? And is anything being done if someone does put it out? Some folks on our street are putting it out at 8:00 in the morning. If they do get a citation, how many before they are fined? Someone told me they have a whole drawer of those citations, and it's no big deal. So, isn't there any follow up to those? And at 5840 Queens Highway the owner passed away and no one is cutting the grass, the family comes by from time to time, but never to cut the grass and the house on the corner of Laylor and Snow Road the grass hasn't been cut in, I don't know how long. I don't know if the city checks on these things?

Ms. Sebastian: Tammy Sebastian, 6814 Revere Road. Just wanted to make a comment that when the garbage fees were first brought to the residents for consideration parts of that process were left out, such as men were set to lose their jobs, we were looking at furlough days and I do believe the mayor and council gave money back at the time, but don't quote me on that. We were doing that to maintain services, to keep the good services, so to answer the question "what have you done for us", it's kept the good services in the city. Earlier during the caucus discussion when it was discussed about putting the money into the general fund, you have to consider that there is more to just paving the streets, you have to pay the people to maintain

the streets, so you're talking about jobs, people to maintain those roads. To allocate that for one certain thing it does come back to that. I think that the only dis-service here is that the previous administration promised during his term that he would never raise it and that's unfair to the new administration. Thank you.

Ms. Alexander: Sue Alexander, 6612 Rochelle Boulevard. I live directly across from Greenbrier Health Center and that has all been torn down but I see surveyors and stuff there, can we find out what is going to happen to that piece of property on Rochelle? Thank you.


### ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds

Nay: None

**Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**



Barbara Allen  
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds  
President of Council