



**City of Parma Heights
Council Minutes
June 13, 2022**

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

Councilman Stavole motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to excuse Councilwoman Durichko and Walsh

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

Motion Passes
EXCUSED: Councilwomen Durichko and Walsh

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Gallo, Director of Finance Iaconis, Director of Law Schneider, Director of Safety Heffernan, 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 23, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

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

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

Minutes Approved

Council President stated that the minutes listed on the agenda titled Police, Fire and Safety Minutes will be approved at that next Committee's meeting rather than this evening.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

Recreation Director Allen: Things are in full swing with the pool, it is open and fully operational. The concession stand is also open on both sides so that folks can purchase from the park side without going into the pool area. Full lineup of swim lessons and swim teams are up and running. Wednesday is our first Senior only swim so we will see how that goes and let you know; we've also already held 7 birthday parties. So, a great start to the summer. We are currently working on the volleyball court and with the assistance of the Service Department we have overhauled the court, it is looking good for the summer. We are looking at getting the bocce ball court resurfaced as well. We've started Tennis lessons and started our first outdoor Yoga for the summer in which 15 people attended and hopefully that will continue to grow as well.

Councilwoman DeSouza asked if the ducks bought passes. Director Allen responded that the mayor waived their fee, no seriously we have 2 (two) Mallard Ducks that have taken residency on the pool deck.

Safety Director Heffernan: The National Testing Network numbers are in, the police have had 46 applicants with 2 openings, and fire has had 57 applicants and 3 openings. Lieutenant Goodrich will be retiring and Firefighter Jedlicka will be promoted to Lieutenant. The K-9 has been selected and training will begin two weeks from today. I've checked into Active Shooter situations with the police and fire departments and they are really advanced, they will train together and we've scheduled that for this summer. The fire department also have body armor and Kevlar helmets, 4 sets, in case the firefighters have to go into some place and make arrests. I was really impressed in how prepared they both are.

Councilman Haase asked when council will be able to meet the K-9? Director Heffernan responded that probably this fall. Councilwoman DeSouza commented that regarding the preparedness of the staff, back to the incident on Newkirk Drive, thank goodness it turned out to be a false alarm but not knowing that the Bomb Squad, the Command Vehicle, everybody was there. I can't tell you how impressed I was the way that department handled the situation. To see the coordination and effort, it was quite amazing. Director Heffernan responded, training is paramount and they train for a reason. Thank you. Council President Rounds added that being a recent graduate of the Citizens Police Academy kudos to the Police Department on the amazing job that they do with that academy. It's a 12-week commitment, Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and I encourage my colleagues to participate in the class the next time it's available. It's a great, eye-opening way to appreciate what your local police department goes through daily.

Finance Director Iaconis: At the next meeting I will be presenting the 2022 Tax Budget that we submit to the county annually. It justifies our property tax rates that are in place. I'm also working on preparing quotes for our renewal of liability insurance, a resolution will be before you to allow us to go out for bids on that soon. We are still in contract negotiations with the FOP contact. We will likely get started with the patrolman soon, maybe the Fire Department this week, then finish up with the Police Sergeant's and Captains. Also, to piggy back on Director Heffernan, we have received several donations for the K-9 already.

Council President Rounds asked Director Iaconis to confirm that the departments that are in contract negotiations, the contracts have expired but they are working under the last agreement until a new agreement is reached, correct? Director Iaconis responded, yes. They are all working on extensions of the contract until the new contracts come to fruition.

Mayor Gallo: The Senior Center's staff served and delivered 1,301 meals in the past two weeks. The Senior Center is offering transportation to the Parma Heights pool June through August for water exercise and the senior only swim, that was mentioned by Director Allen. This information was also provided in the June Newsletter that was given to the seniors and there are several seniors participating. The Senior Center is taking 20 seniors to the Lake Erie Captains Baseball game on June 14th, and they were able to get an upgrade to a loge at the stadium. The Farmers Market coupons should arrive this week and they should be able to accept applications beginning June 20th by phone. Distribution or pick up will not begin until June 27th and they're doing that to keep from having large groups of people gathered together. They will also be providing transportation to the local farmers markets so that the seniors have ample opportunity to use their coupons. The Community Block Grant project or North Church project is complete of phase II, so the city will be reimbursed for that. The city continues to look for grant funding to finish the rest of North Church from Tobik to York. The street is in pretty bad condition but in order to qualify for grant funding we will not be doing any extensive repairs. We will fill pot holes, but in order to apply for the grant funding the condition of the street needs to remain as is. The cost estimate for that portion is just under \$1 million dollars so we hope to be awarded those funds through the grant process still yet this year. The Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant project is in motion and Joe Sebes is working with Ellet Signs on that. The Urban Canopy Tree Planting grants is in motion as well and the Service Department is continuing to plant the rest of the trees. As far as the Ice Rink Demolition is concerned also known as the NEO Soccer facility, awards are behind schedule and the city hasn't heard anything yet, but as soon as we hear something we will let you know. The NOPEC Energizing Community Grants is completed and the city will be reimbursed for that and that will be for the service garage roof repair. The Recreational Trails Grant for Nathan Hale Basin Trails award should be announced this fall, and the city is out to bid and they are due back before the end of this month for the construction of the basin. On behalf of the Service Department because Director Sepik was unable to attend this evening the Watermain Replacement and Resurfacing project started June 2nd on Laylor Drive and Queens Highway. The watermain replacement starts June 8th and that is on Notabene. Our city department laborers are repairing portions of West Ridgewood and that starts June 13th. The city has used Ready Notify to notify the residents, it's on our website and it's also been posted on the city's social media page. Going back to North Church phase II I mentioned earlier, our engineer completed the final inspection. Crossroads Construction began milling and filling May 16th on Snow Road is completed. May 23th Amrap, Kings Highway, Calamie, Doxmere, Westborough and Stoneham are all done. Construction on Eureka from Pearl to Edgehill and Elmore are done as well. We've had good weather and we've been able to get it done very quickly, residents seem to be very pleased. As I mentioned during the Mayor's Caucus, there will be amendments to the code implementing a deer culling program that is administered by our police department and that will be at the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Maruschak asked if we were going to block off some parking spaces for the food pantry on Wednesday while the pool is open? Director Allen responded that we didn't do that this time just because it is the first time, the timing of the programs just barely overlap, but we are aware of that and can certainly entertain something if needed in the future.

Council President asked the mayor to send kudos to Director James at the Senior Center. It's quite heartwarming to hear about the activities and all the opportunities that our seniors are being provided as I get closer to my senior years, and I now qualify for the senior swim now. It's just really enlightening to hear what opportunities are available to our seniors, I appreciate that very much.

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds: None at this time.

LEGISLATION

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

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

Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, 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 second reading.

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

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

Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, 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 second reading.

2022 – 22: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

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

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

Clerk Allen read: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1305 OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, AS MAY BE AMENDED BY THE STATE OF OHIO FROM TIME TO TIME.**

Council President Rounds: This is the first reading.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION OF AN APPLICANT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to move into Executive Session.

Aye: DeSouza, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds

Nay: None

Adjourned to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session back to full council at 8:03 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: Moving right into our public comment portion of the meeting, if you have a comment, please stand, state your name and address and please direct all comments to me and you have 3 minutes to speak. Please know that this section is not meant to be a discussion or conversation but an opportunity for you to make your public comment.

Mr. Landa: Brian Landa, 6619 Big Creek Parkway. I've lived here 55 years, my dad bought the house and I've lived here through 4 mayors, never had an issue with the Service Department. There is some maintenance that needs to be done, but the house is the same as it was. The new mayor's cabinet, the Service Department is saying that there have complaints from the neighbors, in fact I've received three complaints in one month and this person is from my area, is making a rhetoric. This person is escalating issues and I don't feel it's fair. I don't know who the person is. Now my grass is getting high, but because of the rain you have to give me time to get to it. People down the street aren't cutting their grass either, I'm not going to ruin my lawn mower over the grass being a little high. This person needs to grow up and leave people alone in the community, this person is just making too much out of nothing. Perhaps the Service Department could redirect to this person who's having issues, all I get is it's a neighbor complaint. Do you know how irritating that could be?

Council President thanked Mr. Landa for his time and understands his frustration on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds

Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds
President of Council