



Council Work Session Minutes January 23, 2023

PRESENT: Council President Rounds, Councilmen Haase, Stavole, Councilwomen Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko and Walsh; Clerk of Council Allen.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Recreation Director Bacci

The meeting was called to order by Council President Rounds at 6:31 p.m.

Council President Rounds began the discussion with item 2 on the agenda regarding the peace disturbance ordinance. We originally brought this out last fall but I postponed this discussion because of budget discussions at that time. The history behind this was that a couple of residents called with complaints asking when certain things can be done such as mowing lawns. We have the proposed legislation and the section in which the law department feels it should be addressed in front of us. I'd like to put this out to council and see what you're thinking and where you're at in the process.

Councilwoman Maruschak suggested streamlining the times to one set time frame and we should think about removing the months.

Councilwoman DeSouza added that she agrees with Councilwoman Maruschak. There are so many different times throughout our codes, they should all be a concise time across the board.

Councilman Haase stated that right now it's confusing at best and believes it must be hard to keep track of all of that. I think we need to streamline it and make it consistent throughout our codes.

Councilwoman Walsh suggested changing the time to 7:00 a.m. beginning and ending at 9:00 p.m. and added how loud is 60 decibels?

Councilwoman Maruschak added that normal conversation level is 60 decibels.

Councilwoman Walsh asked so that would be for woodworkers that are in their garages? When is sunset during grass season? The older you get; you can't be cutting grass at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon because it's too hot. Can we use the word dusk? If it's dark you can't cut your grass.

Council President Rounds added that the more restrictions we put on this, the more you are boxing in the resident. If you're work schedule only allows you to cut your grass on this day, at this hour, I want to be sensitive to that. I'd hate to have someone boxed in so, they can't cut their grass at what time suites them best.

Councilwoman DeSouza expressed that she thought the latest sunset during the summer months is 9:05 p.m.

Councilman Stavole added that he felt 9:00 p.m. was a good time to begin quiet hour.

Council President Rounds asked everyone if they were okay with the 9:00 p.m. cut off for mowing yards and using tools? Several members responded yes.

Councilman Stavole used the example for the morning hours that if I'm a commercial business, I'm going to be sitting in front of your house waiting for the 8:00 a.m. hour because I've been ready since 7:00 a.m. I might have to leave and go do a neighboring city if I can't start at 7:00 a.m. or maybe have to come back to Parma Heights in the afternoon because of it.

Council President Rounds included that it seems we are all okay with the 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. quiet time issue. It just seems like the decibel issue needs to be clarified.

Councilwoman Maruschak added that 60 decibels is normal conversation level; 70 is a washing machine or dishwasher; 80 – 85 is lawn equipment for residential.

Councilwoman Durichko joined in stating that she agrees with Councilwomen Maruschak and DeSouza that we should unify it. I'm kind of split of where that average is. I think it's going to depend on the resident. I wonder how many people are using their power tools at 9:00 p.m. anyway? We should take it case by case if there is an issue.

Council President expressed his approval of increasing the decibel level and many colleagues spoke out that they agreed. He also mentioned that an ordinance on the books still reads that there shall be no deliveries on any Sunday. We will need to update this as well.

Councilwoman Walsh added that that was specifically put there for deliveries that come at 2:00 in the morning. Commercial business's having their deliveries on the other side of a residential home. What section is this in?

Councilwoman DeSouza added, but this says no deliveries on Sundays at anytime even in the afternoon. It's in section 648.11.

Council President read the section. It states "No person shall deliver merchandise or begin or continue to unload merchandise, or pick up or haul away rubbish or garbage by truck from any home, apartment or commercial establishment within the City between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day on any day except Sunday and at no time on Sunday." We need to look at this closer but this was set as a short Work Session and is coming to a close and I want to make sure there is a consensus of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. regardless of the day of the week and regardless of the time of the year? I would like to hear more about the decibels, can we postpone that portion for another meeting? I would like to hear samples of decibels and if lawnmower is more like 80, my thought would be to increase it to 80 decibels. We have run out time this evening, thank you everyone for your input.

Our Work Session comes to a close at 6:47 p.m. Thank you.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds
Council President