



City of Parma Heights Council Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023

The Parma Heights City Council meeting for Monday, September 11, 2023 was called to order by Council President Rounds at 7:00 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Gallo, Director of Law Schneider, Finance Director Iaconis, Service Director Sepik, Safety Director Heffernan, Recreation Director Bacci

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken

Moment of Silence to honor and remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and add gratitude to the first responders who continually put their lives on the line each day.

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 26, 2023 Parma Heights City Council Minutes

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to approve the City Council Minutes

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds
 Nay: None

Minutes Approved

July 3, 2023 Special Parma Heights City Council Minutes

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Durichko to approve the Special City Council Minutes

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Maruschak, Rounds
 Abstain: Haase
 Nay: None

Minutes Approved

August 21, 2023 Special Parma Heights City Council Minutes

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Durichko to approve the Special City Council Minutes

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds
 Nay: None

Minutes Approved

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

Council President Rounds asked Recreation Director Bacci to begin....

Recreation Director Bacci: Would like to start off thanking Melissa our Pool Manager and her 60+ kids. We saw about 19,000 people at the pool this year. Our staff ranges from 14- to 26-year-olds, sometimes 14-year-olds need to speak more like adults so if you see them thank them for dealing with all the people this past summer. I really appreciate all they did to help keep the pool running. This is the second year we had a fully staffed pool and were able to keep longer pool hours than many of the neighboring communities. We added the Dog Swim where we averaged about 150 participants; 50 dogs, and 100 people. During the movies we had about 2 weeks earlier the kids were able to pick the snacks to coordinate with the movie for the evening, and the community seemed to really like the choices given. We want to congratulate the swim team, baseball, softball and t-ball this evening. Mr. Davis has been nominated for the COX Cable Outstanding Coach Award, and he won for the State of Ohio, he's received \$1,000 donation to his favorite charity. He chose the Ohio Special Olympics and St. Jude's to receive the donation. Mr. Davis has worked decades for the City of Parma Heights and we are eternally grateful for all his years of dedication as the Baseball Commissioner. I want to thank all of the Administration and the Mayor's office for all the assistance in keeping the Recreation Department going and enabling us to do more than we have ever done before. Each and every one up here had a hand in making sure things are done from the Safety Director to Finance Department to Service. Thank you. That concludes my report this evening.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Any questions or comments for Director Bacci? Councilwoman DeSouza....

Councilwoman DeSouza commented that the last statement about doing more here in Parma Heights that has been done before is absolutely true. It's amazing. I was up at the Dog and Swim, my dog was too shy she wouldn't go in, but it was hysterical. What a great thing to do, and I hope that it's even bigger and better next year. Good job.

Council President Rounds asked again if there were any further questions or comments for Director Bacci? Before moving on, could we highlight what's coming in fall quickly?

Recreation Director Bacci responded that we are working on doing the Creatures in the Commons again, we just finished up our two Solid Waste District Presentations as well, and Ms. Karen Miller would like to come back so we are working on potentially Christmas Tree recycling presentation with her as we head into the holidays. Moving into November and December we are planning our Tree lighting at the Gazebo and a Santa Breakfast. Fall Soccer just started, first game was on the 9th, registration is closed.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Thank you very much. Safety Director Heffernan.....

Safety Director Heffernan: Most of you have heard there was a changing of the guard today. The mayor swore in Captain Czack as the interim Police Chief, upon the official retirement of Chief Scharschmidt. We expect it to be a smooth transition since Chief Czack has worked with former Chief Scharschmidt for the past 2 years. Thursday night we had a swearing in for Police Sargeant, Sargeant Sloan. He has returned to patrol so you might see him out and about in his uniform. We now have a School Resource Officer at Valley Forge, full-time, everything is going smoothly. We are almost over the trial period for the safety cameras and should be up and running full-time very shortly. We already talked about the grant for the Fire Department. There was a vehicle collision last Saturday morning where the Police Department and Fire worked well together and Assistant Fire Chief recognized Sargeant Kravanis for

making an entry into a SUV that was turned upside-down, to get the seatbelt from the victim's throat to get him out of there. It was a successful operation. That's all I have.

Council President Rounds: Any questions or comments for Director Heffernan? Seeing none. Director Sepik...

Service Director Sepik: Thank you Council President. The next bulk collection will be held on September 20th. We're going to have a Community Shred event on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Greenbriar Commons. We ask residents to limit it to 2 standard size boxes per household. We'll be starting re-pavement on Orchard Boulevard September 7th with a completion date on or around October 23rd. Our Nathan Hale project building is under construction, building a pavilion and all the earthwork is completed and that is on schedule to be completed by the end of this year. Ohio Department of Transportation replaced the Independence Bridge, both lanes are open for school traffic. West Ridgewood is complete with the joint repairs, crack sealing is ongoing and painting of the lines will go on last. Our concrete crew is currently on Lawnwood. We'll be servicing the leaf machines getting them ready for the fall. We'll then service the snow plows and get ready for the winter.

Council President Rounds: Any questions or comments for Director Sepik? Councilwoman Maruschak....

Councilwoman Maruschak asked if there will be a fall schedule, like it was last year?

Director Sepik responded that yes, like we did last year, yes.

Councilwoman Maruschak responded great; I know the residents appreciated that information very much.

Director Sepik then asked Council to make a motion to accept the bid from Cuyahoga Landmark for the petroleum fuel and lubricants that fuel management and fuel storage systems.

Council President Rounds confirmed that only one bid was received and so this is the bid we are looking to accept. He then asked for a motion to accept Director Sepik's suggestion to accept the bid from Cuyahoga Landmark. So moved by Councilman Stavole; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Council President Rounds. Thank you, Director Sepik. Finance Director Iaconis...

Finance Director Iaconis: Today the assessments were due at the County. We are starting the budget discussions for each department; we have met with two this far this month and then we'll be working on something for council. We are still waiting on our insurance quotes, but as soon as we have them, we'll be working on legislation for council. Auditors are coming tomorrow and hopefully be able to wrap everything up for 2022 and have a report for council to review.

Council President Rounds: Thank you Director. Any questions or comments for Director Iaconis? So just for clarification, the intent is to have budget conversations this fall so that we are ready to go for the first of the year, like we did last year.

Director Iaconis responded yes. If council approves the budget.

Council President Rounds thanked Director Iaconis and added nice to see you, Director Schneider. Mayor Gallo....

Mayor Gallo: Thank you Mr. President. The Senior Center delivered and served 1,968 meals over the last two weeks. The Senior Center will be hosting a craft at the Donna Smallwood Center and they in turn are hosting another joint craft later in the month. They are expanding activities with other Senior Centers in the area and Parma has been a great partner. The Senior Center switched up the drive-thru produce box for the months of September and October to all produce. This means more options are offered to our seniors, they will be doing that on the third Thursday of both months at the parking lot at the pool. In honor of the start of the new school year, they offered senior school pictures and they had a choice of 2 5x7, 4 4x6 or 8 wallets for \$5.00. They had a lot of fun with that. Redi Notify system, which is not just used for emergency. It's used for everything including trash notifications, they have now added scam alerts. Senior Center has sent out fliers to all the homebound participants and they distributed them at the Senior Center and will also be in the October Newsletter. As Council is aware, we are getting a new library and there will be 3 meetings posted at the library for public input. The first will be Tuesday, September 19th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 21st, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 30th, 10:00 am – noon. The purpose for these meetings is to get input from the residents, any ideas that could be potentially used for the new library. We are excited about the new construction and our residents, through property taxes help fund the library system. It's nice to see that money come back to Parma Heights and have the Cuyahoga County Library invest and build new in our city. As Director Heffernan had mentioned Chief Scharschmidt has retired, he is running down a little bit of his time in the interim, I swore in Captain Tonya Czack as interim Chief and she will transition into the permanent position of Chief once her assignment is completed. It's a historic moment today, for the City of Parma Heights first female Chief, we are very pleased. Tonya Czack has over 30 years on the department, has served in multiple roles with the department and as Director Heffernan mentioned Chief Scharschmidt was a mentor to her and she learned a lot working under him. It will be a very good transition for our city. I want to commend Fire Chief Bernard and Assistant Fire Chief Clark for their work on the FEMA Grant, which is on the agenda this evening, we are receiving \$900,000 from the Federal Government to put towards a ladder truck for our fire department. That concludes my report Mr. President. Thank you.

Council President Rounds asked if there were any further comments or questions for the mayor? Seeing none. Thank you, Mayor Gallo.

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds: Planning Commission update being provided by Councilman Haase.

Councilman Haase stated that there were public meetings of July 5, July 24, and August 7 for the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit for a soon to be new business at 6675 Pearl Road. A coffee drive-up and drive-thru business. A lot consolidation was approved for Parma Heights Baptist Church at 8971 West Ridgewood, two parcels of land would be combined into one. Lastly, at the corner of Stumph and Huffman we are now, once again, going to have a Speedy Gas Station and Convenience store. Earlier this year there was another project set for this location and unfortunately, it did not come to fruition. This development was approved with the condition of demolition of the existing building and installing new tanks. One of the items the Commission discussed was the landscaping for that property to make sure it adds something to that corner, which for sometime has been somewhat of an eyesore.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: Before we get started with our Public Session, I'd like to ask one of our guests this evening to stand and introduce himself to us and let everyone else in the room know why he's here, your name, your address and a little bit about who you are and why you're here please.

Donald Sarian, 6866 Orchard Boulevard, I am part of Troop 263 and I am here to fulfill a couple of requirements on my Merit Badges to help me achieve my Eagle Scout.

Council President Rounds: On to Public Comment, if you have comment you would like to share with City Council, please stand, state your name and address and please direct all comments to me, you have 3 minutes to speak.

Vitaliy Melnychuk, 9168 Stoney Creek Lane. What did the city do to provide any special training to the ambulance driver so he doesn't kill innocent people? Is there any lawsuit because of that? I'd like to know. What are you doing to the sewer systems in Parma Heights, your residents are losing hundreds of thousands of dollars. Who proposed, accepted and paid for the two bike lanes on Pearl? They make a traffic jam. I was sitting there for 3 hours one day. Even though you want me to move my business from the city, I will not move my business from the area. Thank you.

Chris Fontaine, 6821 Maplewood. My wife and I are recently retired this year. We moved here in the fall of 2019. Couple months after we moved in, we had a flood in the basement like all my neighbors do. We did the clean-up and replaced carpet/linoleum, everything seemed fine until June 20th, we had a heavy rain and flooded again, but not terrible, we cleaned it up. August 23rd, we had another heavy rain, and I know your supposed to be doing some type of reservoir thing trying to take care of the flooding issues throughout the city, but we are concerned about what's causing it. Are the sewers getting too full? Also, because our street goes all the way to Pleasant Valley, there is a lot of traffic because people use it as a cut through, I don't know if there are any plans to repave Maplewood, but the street is crumbling. I thought because of the new apartments I was hoping it would have gotten repaved.

Mark Wahtey, 5898 Clearview Drive. I'm here because of the amount of traffic that goes down our street. I'm proud to have the bike trail but there's got to be something we can do about the traffic that's going down the street, it's out of control. As they come down, you can actually hear them speeding up. There are a lot of kids down there. Even though we call the police, they can only do so much. It's just really out of control, we need something to be done.

Mike Wanko, 5893 Clearview Drive. Our street has been repaved, but I have advised my visitors, family not to trip on the road because there is a 3-inch rise in the center. They filled it in with foam but it's difficult to maneuver especially on a motorcycle, if you're not paying attention, it can be difficult.

Council President Rounds: Thank you, sir, and just so you know the appropriate directors are listening and taking notes and they know who to reach out to and get back to with the appropriate answers to these questions that you're asking. We're not just listening and moving on. Any other questions or comments this evening?

Jeff Boutton, 5911 Clearview Drive. Just want to reiterate what these residents said pertaining to the speeding and constant flow of vehicles, night and day, rush hour, it's really a concern.

Council President Rounds asked Councilwoman Maruschak if Clearview is a cut-thru street for traffic in that area?

Councilwoman Maruschak responded, absolutely it is.

Council President Rounds thanked everyone for their comments and moved on to this evening's legislation.

LEGISLATION

2023 – 34: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds
Nay: Walsh

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 34

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 351.13 ENTITLED “PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds: This is the third reading of this item, are there any questions or comments?
Seeing none.

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds
Nay: Walsh, Stavole

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 52: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

Councilwoman Walsh motioned; seconded by Councilman Stavole to accept the amendment and provide for an emergency provision and to add an additional vehicle to Exhibit A of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 52

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE CITY VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AT A PUBLIC SALE THROUGH GOVPLANET/IRONPLANET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds stated that this is the second reading for this item.

2023 – 53: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 53

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ENACTING SECTION 105.08 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, ENTITLED, “BID EVALUATION FACTORS”, TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW SECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Council President Rounds stated that this is the first reading for this item.

2023 – 54: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 54

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds

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.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Rounds

Resolution Passes

2023 – 55: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 55

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2023 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, REPEALING

ORDINANCE 2023-18, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds

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

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 56: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: RESOLUTION 2023 – 56

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH ROSENBAUER MINNESOTA, LLC THROUGH SOURCEWELL FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ROSENBAUER AERIAL LADDER TRUCK AT THE PURCHASE PRICE OF ONE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,800,000.00), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Haase motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to suspend the rules.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Rounds

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

Councilman Haase motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to move for passage.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Rounds

Resolution Passes

2023 – 57: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 57

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ACCEPT A FISCAL YEAR 2022 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Rounds

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

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds

Resolution Passes

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Can I have a motion for adjournment?

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds
President of Council