



City of Parma Heights Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2023

The Parma Heights City Council meeting for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 was called to order by Council President Rounds at 7:04 p.m.

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

Motion to excuse Councilwoman Walsh was made by Councilman Stavole; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza.

Roll call: Aye: Maruschak, DeSouza, Stavole, Rounds.
Nay: Durichko, Haase

Councilwoman Walsh has been excused.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 25, 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: DeSouza, Durichko, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, Rounds
Nay: None

Minutes Approved

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

Council President Rounds continued with the Directors Reports and began with Director Bacci....

Recreation Director Bacci: We are releveling the ballfields and continue to work with the Service Department. We've already completed Stroud, Radlick and moving on to Kurtz. I did look into having it done commercially and it would cost us upwards of \$8,000 per location. I'm so thankful to have a Service Department that is willing to work with us on projects. Three events coming up; Creatures in the Commons on Saturday, October 28th from 5 to 7; Parma Heights Historical Society is going to be joining us with pumpkin painting from 11 – 1pm at the gazebo, cool critters, local businesses and community partners will be hosting trick-or-treat stations. Holiday Tree lighting on Monday, November 27th from 5 to 6, it's our way of welcoming the holiday season with the mayor and the city. The Valley Forge Choir will be there as well as Santa and Ms. Claus will be joining us. Santa Breakfast will be Saturday December 16th, last year we sold out in about 40 minutes so this year we are going to have two sittings to accommodate our residents, 9 to 10:30 and 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. and this is a resident only event.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Any questions or comments for Director Bacci? Councilman Haase...

Councilman Haase asked where will that take place, please?

Director Bacci responded that the Holiday Tree Lighting will be at the gazebo; Santa Breakfast will be at Cassidy Theatre; Creatures in the Commons will be in the commons.

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

Service Director Sepik: Thank you, Council President. I would like to expand on what Director Bacci was saying, when the mayor hired us, she instilled upon us a team effort. It's not just one department, we're a family, we're a team, whether it's Police, Fire, or Rec. You can see it in the past year and ¾ that she's made leaps and bounds that have been accomplished in that short amount of time. It's amazing. Hat's off to Mayor Gallo and what she's accomplished through her term thus far.

Mayor Gallo thanked the director for his kind words and several other directors showed appreciation as well.

Director Sepik continued with his Service Department report beginning with recycling computers will be held on October 14th, 9:00 am to noon at the Service Garage. Bulk collection this month is October 18th. October 28th will be our household hazards waste collection. The Orchard Boulevard project is close to being completed; we need to do the final walk through. We are working on the rejuvenation of streets. The big one that was just completed is on York Road. They are spraying a solvent on the roads and it extends the life of the asphalt. Nathan Hale project is just about complete. The walking trail park has been added but it is still closed. It is still extremely dangerous due to the construction. There are signs up and on the website. It's criminal trespassing if someone is caught in the park, you will be cited by the Police Department who is patrolling on a regular basis. There will be a grand opening in the spring.

Council President Rounds added to Director Sepik that I just know you are making eye contact with me as Council President, not someone who needs to hear that message?

Director Sepik responded oh, no I would never call you out Council President.

Council President Rounds. Any questions or comments for Director Sepik? Seeing none. Finance Director Iaconis...

Finance Director Iaconis: Thank you. At the next Council meeting there will be legislation for you to review and potentially vote on the tax code updates related to House Bill 33. We have finished our internal meetings for the 2024 budget. We are going to plan on being on the first draft to be in front of council at the next meeting as well as Police, Fire and Service Department Directors to be in attendance and we'll get through as much as we can. This week I am meeting with our brokers and will hopefully have a solid renewal on our medical health care coverage at the next meeting as well.

Council President Rounds: Any questions or comments for the director? Seeing none. Welcome Director Schneider. Mayor Gallo....

Mayor Gallo: Thank you, Mr. President. The Senior Center delivered and served 1,154 meals this week. They had a surprise nutrient monitoring visit on Friday from Western Reserve. They passed it with flying colors. Director James has applied for a small grant from the Parma Elks Club earlier this year, and it looks like she's going to receive that grant to put towards exercise programs for the seniors. Quotes have been submitted to NOACA for the Senior Center Bus, we are expecting that soon. The Valley Forge 48-person choir will be performing a Christmas Concert during lunch at the center on Wednesday, December 13th. Director Sepik mentioned Nathan Hale is closed. There will be police patrolling. As I mentioned earlier during the Mayor's Caucus, we are going to have surveillance cameras installed in Nathan Hale Park and Kurtz Park to cut down on vandalism that's going on in the parks. Especially with Nathan Hale, that was a \$4.2 million dollar investment so we are here to protect that investment for our residents. The library open houses went well. Things are moving along with the new library. We hope to break ground towards the end of next year. That project is moving along and we are looking forward to that. As Director Iaconis mentioned we will be starting budget discussions for 2024. That's all I have for this evening Mr. President.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds: Esposito Organization LLC, 6384 Pearl Road & Patios, Parma Heights, OH 44130. If I could have a motion, please upon the Chief's recommendation to formally object this transfer and request a hearing on the advisability of transfer. Moved by Councilman Stavole; seconded by Councilwoman Durichko.

Roll call: Aye: Durichko, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds.
Nay: None

Sent to Public Hearing.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: If you would like to make a public comment, please stand, state your name and address and please direct all comments to me. We are taking notes while you are here. Directors are taking notes as well if it applies to them so we can get back to you. You are given 3 minutes to speak.

Phyllis Alvarez, 6836 Tobik Trail. We recently purchased our home, have been just about a year. I lived my whole life in Lakewood, but this community is beautiful and we love it. The speeding cars that go down our street, I'd like to know what it is that we can do. I realize there may not be funding available but I'd like to start in some way. I've put signs out. I've called the police. I have cameras and you're welcome to come take a look at. You may think it's because of the bridge being closed on Independence. It's not. It's constant since we moved into the area. 70 mph is nothing and I'm not over exaggerating. I'm just trying to find out what we can do to stop this or at least slow them down.

Mark Wahtey, 5898 Clearview I was here a month ago and talked about the speeding and possibility of having a stop sign put up. It's still out of hand, nothing has been done. Even the water trucks fly up and down the street all the time. I spoke to someone at the Ohio Department of Transportation and was told the city can put a stop sign there. Only time it has to come from the state, is if it's on a main street. We need a stop sign, speed limit signs and a no-drive-thru during certain hours sign. It's just crazy.

Mayor Gallo added that the City Engineer determines after reviewing the Uniform Traffic Code whether a stop sign can be put over there. That would be up to the City Engineer because they are heavily regulated and you can't put stop signs up just to regulate speed. I'll defer to Chief Czack because she is very familiar with the usage of stop signs to control traffic. Chief.....

Chief Czack stated that the uniform Manual of Traffic Control has a very specific section that says you cannot use a stop sign to control speed if that's all it's there for. You have to have a specific number of vehicles traveling that roadway in order to make that legal. Home Rule as a Charter City can apply but you want to be in compliance with both in case someone wants to challenge that. I was not aware that we had water trucks involved with this issue and I will address this.

Council President Rounds added that he remembered that stop signs on Independence and North Church had to be removed because they were being used to control the traffic speed and that was not allowed.

Mayor Gallo said we can assign a police vehicle to the street. Chief Czack said we can put someone there to count cars which is part of the process.

Tammy Sebastian, 6814 Revere. I've been following along before the Independence Bridge project work went up and we were promised that it would be done before school. When it wasn't, action was taken and shut down work while school traffic was going on. But they accommodated us by working on the weekends, so they were able to open up the bridge so that traffic can go through. I know sometimes things happen that are out of our control, but we saw action taken in order to fulfill that promise. The bridge looks wonderful and I'm so glad that that happened. I like to hear that the departments are working as a team, not only police, fire, mayor but also council. Hearing that the community members are at the forefront of all your conversations that makes me feel safe and welcome in my community. Thank you.

Tom Higgins, 5905 Clearview Drive. I just want to say over on Maplecliff, I walk my dogs over there. When you come out on to Pearl there is a stop sign, on the other side of the street about 10 yards beyond that, there is a speed limit sign 25 mph and right underneath that is a slow-children at play sign with a small diagram with kids on it. If they could even do something like that over there it might help.

Mike Wanko, 5893 Clearview Drive. On the back side of the curbs, where the piping and the waterlines were put in, a lot of the tree lawns still have 6 to 8 inches from the top of the curb down to the grass on the back side of the curb trenches. They came along and tarred the street. Which made it better although we'll see how it lasts through the winter. There is a lump in the street. We need dirt. Thank you for leveling that out.

Council President Rounds asked if there were any other public comments? Seeing none, moved on into legislation.

LEGISLATION

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: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, 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 third reading for this item. Are there any questions or comments?

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

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

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 58: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

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

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 58

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS

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

2023 – 62: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

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

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 62

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.01 ENTITLED “PERSONNEL” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds asked to also have a motion to accept this ordinance as amended. In our notes you’ll see that the amended language is there as well as the exhibit has been updated to provide for that amendment; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to accept the amendment.

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

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

2023 – 63: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

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

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

Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 63

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.02 ENTITLED “FIRE CHIEF; ASSISTANT CHIEF” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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


ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds
President of Council