



## City of Parma Heights Council Meeting Minutes September 25, 2023

The Parma Heights City Council meeting for Monday, September 25, 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*

### COUNCIL MINUTES

September 11, 2023 Parma Heights City Council Minutes

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

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

*Minutes Approved*

### REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

Mayor Gallo began with a presentation swearing in two new patrolmen. Chief Czack was asked to first introduce these two individuals.

Chief Czack thanked Mayor Gallo and the city council. Chief Scharschmidt and I worked on these together which is why he is with us this evening to follow through with two great candidates that we have found. I'll start with Christopher Rinderly. Mr. Rinderly if you would please come up. He is part of this academy at Cleveland Heights, he is set to graduate in December. Chris grew up in Mentor and graduated from Mentor High School. He's getting married this Friday to his High School sweetheart. He attended Kent State University and earned a Bachelors Degree in Criminology and Justice Studies in 2022. We are looking forward to him coming aboard. He is badge number 48.

Mayor Gallo then swore in Christopher Rinderly. Mr. Rinderly then introduced his family.

Chief Czack then asked Mena Garas to join her in the front of the room. Mena was born and raised in Egypt, came to the United States in 2011. Earned his citizenship in 2016. Mena attended the Polaris Police Academy in 2018 where I taught him. He has worked for Glenwillow and Bloomington Police Department. He is badge number 49.

Mayor Gallo swore Mena Garas in. He introduced his wife and she pinned him with his new badge. His former Chief was introduced to the audience who came to show his support.

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

Recreation Director Bacci: We have two new staff members joining the Recreation Department. Katelyn Schwin is our new Recreation Assistant. She came to us from a law firm in Toledo but she grew up in the Parma Heights area and wanted to move home. She is hoping to bring the experience from the law firm and Lucky Paws where she fostered over 200 animals. We also have a new Events Coordinator, Josh Szordi. He has worked for Avon Lake and Brooklyn Recreation before coming here. Josh coaches in a plethora of different sports. He's hoping to expand our athletics programs within the city. I'd like to bring them both in to meet with you one day soon. We just started renovating the softball diamonds, service has again outdone themselves. We started at Stroud Park where they actually removed a three-foot gradient that we had after years and years of the city dragging the fields without cutting the sod back left a big bubble in the outfield. As of today, that edge is completely removed and leveled. Our soccer program is full and up and running. They will be out there at the Reservoir until October 31<sup>st</sup>, most games are held Saturday, and on Monday nights are also Munchkin practice and we have about 75 of them. The Creatures in the Commons event will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00. We'll have pumpkin painting with the Historical Society, we will have funnel cakes, reptiles and aquatics as well as treats from the different businesses in the area just to name a few things that will be going on that night.

Council President Rounds mentioned to council that we will have a presence at the Creatures in the Commons event as well. We will have a table and we'll be providing some boo juice to patrons of the event. If you, council, are available and can assist, please let me know and we'll plan on being there on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. as well.

Council President Rounds: Thank you. Any questions or comments for Director Bacci? Safety Director Heffernan.....

Safety Director Heffernan: The school safety cameras are all up as of last Friday, Sargeant Kravanis reports. Last week the State of Ohio came and did an inspection of our Fire House with Cleveland Narcotics and medical related stuff. The two inspectors reported no issues or violations, they were 100% in compliance. That's all I have.

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

Service Director Sepik: Orchard Boulevard still under construction with a completion date middle or end of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We still have another inch and a half of layer of asphalt to put on top, so it's not complete just yet. Our Nathan Hale project had their trees delivered today. Park is coming along very nicely. They are still thinking of being completed and are on schedule to be completed by the end of this year.

Council President Rounds: Living next to Nathan Hale, I need to tell you that the retention basin has become a Canadian Goose Resort stop and they are honking away all day and night. You can hear them flapping and coming in for a landing against the water. Quite entertaining for sure.

Mayor Gallo addressed this by stating that she has spoken to Director Bacci about that and it's possible to bring dogs down there to chase them away, so we are looking into that. It usually works. The basin is on the map.

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

Finance Director Iaconis: We've been meeting internally, almost through half of the departments going through budgets for next year, so far, doesn't seem like anything out of the ordinary. We've done a great job of getting ourselves back to where we don't have to play catch up all the time. We shouldn't have any large surprises next year.

Council President Rounds: Thank you Director. Any questions or comments for Director Iaconis? Seeing none, nice to see you, Director Schneider. Mayor Gallo....

Mayor Gallo: The Senior Center delivered and served 1,268 meals over the last two weeks. The October Senior Newsletter is out. The seniors are going to see Cinderella at Cassidy Theatre next month. The Senior Center is working with the liaison from Parma City Schools, Nancy Fedak to have a Normandy Polka Band come and play at the center. That will be something nice for our seniors. St. John Bosco had their community service dates this past Saturday and some of our seniors had garden work and other chores done by the group. Last Thursday they had a larger than usual produce distribution in the parking lot by the tennis courts in Greenbriar Commons, they distributed 5,361 lbs. of produce. That was great. There is one more library open house meeting, Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon. As Director Iaconis mentioned we are meeting and going over budget and we will probably have some information to come before council late October, early November. Our Engineer is working on our streets rating list and those streets should probably be available first quarter of next year. That will be public record and our residents can see exactly where their street ranks on a list from our Engineer. Mr. Ramos from NOPEC is with us this evening and he will have some comments during public discussion for City Council. That concludes my report.

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: None

## 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, it's not a discussion it's just an opportunity for you to share or speak, you are given 3 minutes to speak.

Barb Pacino, 6400 Nelwood Road. I have three things I'd like to say. One is thanking Bob and Jeff who maintains the cemetery. We have 70 + graves now marked for veterans and he is very careful not to disturb any of the stones or damage anything if we need to do a replacement. We work very well with Bob and let everyone know that the Parma Heights Historical Society is very happy with Jeff and what he's been able to do for us. Secondly, something makes me crazy every time I drive down Pearl Road. We have a lovely park named Stroud, which is our founding family. A lady spent a lot of time and money donating the land and putting a park in for her husband and do you notice anything wrong? To me

it's very disrespectful to the dead, and to the founding family. Between the two benches and all the shrubbery, there are two huge trash containers where people that get off the bus can throw their rubbish away. I feel it's very disrespectful in this location and I don't know why RTA was allowed to put them there? I'd like to see us move them somewhere. I really wish you would take a look at that. And third thing is thanking our Recreation Department, Parma Heights Historical and she have worked so well together and we are merging a lot of our events and they are working out beautifully, it's nice to know that we have someone that we can work with. Thank you.

Tony Ramos, NOPEC. Mayor, Mr. President, Members of Council. Thank you for allowing me a couple of minutes. I just wanted to stop by and let you all know about the status of our re-enrollment process that we spoke about last year. That process is now complete I'm happy to report that NOPEC has brought back about 80% of the customers that we previously had before we returned our customers back to the utility last year. How that relates to the City of Parma Heights, is that you have about 9500 residents and small businesses that are participating in the aggregation programs across gas and electricity. No one community is back to where they were prior to last summer but we are seeing really good bounce back. If you've been listening to the radio or watching TV, you're probably tired of hearing the word NOPEC especially if you listen to talk radio. We are advertising because a lot of customers that chose not to opt back in the aggregation programs in June, in July and August started calling trying to reverse that decision. So, we are trying to capitalize on getting people to come back and as always, they can opt back into the electric aggregation program at any time. In the folder I've provided, on the right side is a flyer where we are hosting an economic development session in partnership with the City of Garfield Heights. There are a lot of resources being made available from the Federal Government and through programs that we offer to help support small businesses, trying to help with their energy costs and help make them more energy efficient. Feel free to share that's, happening this Friday in Garfield Heights. If that event shows to be successful, I will be rolling it out to all the communities I'm responsible for. We do have a preferred pricing program, especially for street lights, that pricing is right around .05 cents, it's extremely competitive. I'm here as a resource for you, if you need anything.

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

## LEGISLATION

### **2023 – 52: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

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 third reading for this item. Are there any questions or comments? Seeing none.

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

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

Resolution Passes

**2023 – 53: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Walsh, 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 second reading for this item.

**2023 – 58: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, 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 first reading for this item.

**2023 – 59: 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: Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds

**Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 59**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 9, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION PAID TO VARIOUS EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

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

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

*Ordinance Passes*

**2023 – 60: 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: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, Rounds

**Clerk Allen read: ORDINANCE 2023 – 60**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 151.01 ENTITLED “PERSONNEL” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Councilwoman Maruschak motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza 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 ordinance? Seeing none.

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

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

*Ordinance Passes*

**2023 – 61: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilman Haase 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 – 61**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 151.04 ENTITLED “CHIEF OF POLICE; ASSISTANT CHIEF/CAPTAIN” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Councilman Haase 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.

Councilman Haase 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 – 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: Durichko, Walsh, Stavole, Haase, Maruschak, DeSouza, 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**

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

**2023 – 63: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Walsh, 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 first reading for this item.

**2023 – 64: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

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

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

**Clerk Allen read: RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 64**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO THE HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT PROGRAM YEAR 2023 PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Resolution Passes*

**2023 – 65: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilman Haase 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 – 65**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK GROUP INC. FOR SAFETY CAMERA SERVICES, EXPEND FUNDS PURSUANT TO THAT AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

**2023 – 66: RESOLUTION TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilwoman Maruschak motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza 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 – 66**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTRACT WITH GARLAND/DBS, INC. THROUGH EQUALIS GROUP FOR REPAIRS TO THE PARMA HEIGHTS SERVICE GARAGE ROOF, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING AN EXPENDITURE FOR THOSE REPAIRS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Councilwoman Maruschak motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza 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.



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

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

*Resolution Passes*


**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Rounds: Thank you. 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, Walsh, Stavole, Rounds

**Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.**



Barbara Allen  
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds  
President of Council