



City of Parma Heights Council Meeting Minutes January 8, 2024

The Parma Heights City Council meeting for Monday, January 8, 2024 was called to order by Council President Rounds at 7:00 p.m.

Council President welcomed back Councilwoman Durichko, and also welcomed Councilwoman Palmisano and Councilman Kolezynski in joining us this evening.

PRESENT: Council President Rounds, Councilmembers Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak and Council Clerk Allen.

Council President Rounds asked for a motion to excuse Councilman Haase. Moved by Councilwoman DeSouza; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak and Rounds

Councilman Haase has been excused.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken

Council President turned the meeting over to the mayor to begin with two new Firefighters being sworn in. Mayor Gallo asked Assistant Chief Clark to provide a summary on each of the Firefighters being sworn in this evening.

Assistant Chief Clark began with James Gaeckle. The Parma Heights Fire Department got to meet Jim when he was in medic school, he did a lot of his ride time with us. Along the way he fell in love with our department. When we get medic students, we don't make them pay for their meals, we treat them as one of the family. They're usually going to school, working part-time so we treat them for dinners. We knew right away we liked Jim, and he liked us. He ranked number 1 on our list. He came to us because he was getting offers but he wanted to work here in Parma Heights. He resides in Medina where he grew up, went to Cleveland State with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and served with the Army National Guard. Sean Kahl grew up in North Royalton and he knew right away what he wanted to do. Went to EMT classes, received his Paramedic certification, worked several years on private, Cleveland EMS, and Columbus Fire. Sean is no stranger to the ambulance. He spent 8 years in one of the busiest houses in Columbus. This is in his blood, this is home, this where he is from. He was a lateral hire and much like Jim he had another offer, but this is where he wants to be. Super excited where we are going in the future with both of these young men.

Mayor Gallo added that she understands that your girlfriend is the daughter of the North Olmsted Fire Captain Dave Boatman and I had the pleasure of working with Captain Boatman when I was working for the City of North Olmsted. It's good to see you, Captain. James Gaeckle then approached the front of the room and was sworn in by Mayor Gallo. Sean Kahl then was asked to come to the front of the room and he was also sworn in by Mayor Gallo.

Council President Rounds added that before continuing with the rest of our agenda, Jim, Sean welcome to the City of Parma Heights. May you never have to come to my address.

Council President Rounds continued with announcing that since this is the first council meeting to be held under a new term, organizational business needs to be addressed. We will begin with the Election of Council President. Council President serves a two-year term. When the clerk calls your name, please say the name of the next person you would like to see serve as our Council President.

Council Clerk called the Roll Call: Palmisano: Tom Rounds; DeSouza: Rounds; Kolezynski: Tom Rounds; Maruschak: Rounds; Durichko: Tom Rounds and Rounds: Tom Rounds.

Council President Rounds thanked everyone and confirmed that for the next two years Tom Rounds will serve as Council President. Next is our election of Council President Pro-Tem. When the clerk calls your name, please say the name of the next person you would like to see serve as our Council President Pro-Tem.

Council Clerk called the Roll Call: DeSouza: Rick Haase; Kolezynski: Rick Haase; Maruschak: Haase; Durichko: Rick Haase; Palmisano: Rick Haase; Rounds: Rick Haase.

Council President confirmed that Rick Haase will continue as Council President Pro-Tem. Next is the election of Council Clerk. When the clerk calls your name, please say the name of the person you would like to see serve as our Council Clerk.

Council Clerk called the Roll Call: Kolezynski: Barbara Allen; Maruschak: Barbara Allen; Durichko: Barbara Allen; Palmisano: Barbara Allen; DeSouza: Barbara Allen; Rounds: Barb Allen.

Council President stated that Barbara Allen will continue to serve as our Clerk of Council. Occasionally we need an Assistant Clerk at our disposal, we will continue with the elections of the Assistant Clerks.

Council Clerk called the Roll Call: Maruschak: Nora Neel; Durichko: Nora Neal; Palmisano: Nora Neel; DeSouza: Nora Neel; Kolezynski: Nora Neel; Rounds: Nora Neel.

Council President Rounds stated that Nora Neal will serve as our 1st Assistant Clerk and in case she's not available we may need one more. When the clerk calls your name, please say the name of the next person you would like to see serve as our Assistant Clerk.

Council Clerk called the Roll Call: Durichko: Katie Iaconis; Palmisano: Katie Iaconis; DeSouza: Katie Iaconis; Kolezynski: Katie Iaconis; Maruschak: Katie Iaconis; Rounds: Katie Iaconis.

Council President Rounds thanked Director Iaconis for serving in that role should we need you. Next is the appointment of Council Committee Assignments for the 2024 – 2026 term. Since I have already spoke to each individual members, we are going to state this for the record:

Finance Committee
Lesley DeSouza - Chair
Rick Haase - Vice-Chair
Tom Rounds

Safety Committee
Lisa Maruschak - Chair
Stephanie Palmisano - Vice-Chair
Lesley DeSouza

Recreation Committee

Lisa Maruschak - Chair
Sue Durichko - Vice-Chair
Chris Kolezynski

Ad Hoc Committee

Rick Haase - Chair
Lesley DeSouza - Vice-Chair
Lisa Maruschak

Utilities and Streets Committee

Sue Durichko - Chair
Chris Kolezynski - Vice Chair
Stephanie Palmisano

Planning Commission (Council Representative)
Rick Haase
Recreation Commission (Council Representative)
Lisa Maruschak
Fair Housing Board (Council Representative)
Chris Kolezynski

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 11, 2023 Parma Heights City Council Minutes

Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to approve the City Council Minutes of December 11, 2023.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Rounds

Minutes Approved

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND DIRECTORS

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

Recreation Director Bacci: Wanted to begin by thanking everyone that came to the Santa Breakfast. We sold out to 120 people. We had Santa and Mrs. Claus there for 4 hours with us, we really appreciate them for the time. We'd also like to thank the elves that came from the Senior Center that passed out candy and gave glitter tattoos for the kids during our downtime. The Recreation Department was chosen to be a part of the Pitch, Hit and Run program which is part of the Major League Baseball Association. They will set up at Kurtz Park, surrounding community kids will come and do a series of drills and record their times. If any of those kids meet the requirements, they could be sent to Regional, State and then a Nationwide competition and the Cleveland Guardians get involved at that point. We have been awarded \$3,000 from the Cleveland Guardians Charity for diamond improvements. We are going to use that to replace all of the bases that we have at each of the fields across the city. In 2024 we moved over to MyRec Sportsman so when registering for our programs it's going to look a little different. We hope this new software will make it easier for the community and surrounding communities to register as well as for us, including the Finance Department on the back end. And lastly, Josh Szoradi our Athletics Coordinator, is hosting a fastball clinic this Saturday at Holy Name. They have been incredible partners; I believe he has a few slots left for that clinic. Saturday, January 15th from 9:00 am to 10 a.m. register online or here at City Hall.

Council President Rounds: Any questions or comments for Director Bacci? Seeing none.
Service Director Scharschmidt, welcome.....

Safety Director Scharschmidt: Thank you. I look forward to working with all of you in the future. Grateful to the mayor, humbled by the opportunity. Quick hiring updates: Fire obviously had two firefighters tonight sworn in. I love Assistant Fire Chief Clarks passion. Police are looking for two right

now. They have opened the National Testing Network applications and there are two currently in training, they are Mena Garas and Duane Parish, over at field training who are doing well. We are excited and hope to fill the next two to three with some quality police officers. I'd like to mention that we are starting our 5th Annual Citizens Police Academy in late March. It's 11 weeks, every Wednesday, it's been well received and we have a lot of good feedback. If you're interested, please let me know.

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

Service Director Sepik: Thank you, Council President. I'd like to say congratulations and welcome to the two new councilmembers and to the returning councilmember. Republic Service bulk collection pickup will be January 17th for this month. Holiday light collection will be Saturday, January 27th at the Service Garage, items that will be accepted will be string lights, electric cords and power strips from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There is a live Christmas tree curbside collection, Wednesday, January 10th. We have these events on the City of Parma Heights website. There are few more items that need to be completed for Nathan Hale location. We're adding security and more lighting. We should be open spring. That concludes my report this evening.

Council President Rounds. Any other questions or comments for Director Sepik, please? Councilwoman Durichko.....

Councilwoman Durichko added Nathan Hale as I hear anytime I go past it, it's incredible, it's just going to be such a source of pride for all of us residents, so excellent job.

Council President Rounds asked if there were any further comments for Director Sepik? I have one, could be for Director Sepik or the mayor, we were talking about the survey that went out to the residents about going weekly or monthly bulk pick up and inviting Republic in the new year, could you update us on where we are in that process?

Mayor Gallo responded that we are still waiting for them to get back to me as to which evening works best for them, this month or next month but we will have a representative in.

Council President Rounds asked again if there were any further questions? Seeing none. Director Iaconis.....

Finance Director Iaconis: Thank you. I welcome the new and returning council people, I look forward to working with you and getting to know you. We are working on getting 2023 closed out, if not by the next meeting, maybe the February meeting we should be closed and have all the financials ready for you. At the next meeting we will have a change on the wage ordinance, one of them is the announcement of increase in minimum wage and a few small corrections. Looking forward to providing all the information to all of you once we close out last year and get started for 2024. Open to any suggestions on how to get that information to you.

Council President Rounds thanked Director Iaconis and asked if there were any further questions for the director? Seeing none. It's good to see you, Director Schneider.

Director Schneider added that it's a pleasure to be here. You know in college they taught us that the work that we did outside of Arbor was much more important than what went on inside the Arbor and with that I am proud to be here tonight with some city council people that I have a relationship with, a director that

I've been able to work with over time, a police officer now as a director and I look forward to what will begin my 14th year of service with this city. I'm proud to be here.

Council President Rounds added thank you Director Schneider, we're happy you are here as well. Mayor Gallo....

Mayor Gallo: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, welcome Councilwoman Stephanie Palmisano, Councilman Chris Kolezynski I look forward to working with you both. The Senior Center served and delivered 1,139 meals over the past two weeks and we are working on a mass distribution of homebound which is 67 seniors who are receiving home delivery meals daily. They had a great December for parties and activities, Christmas lights and events. Some of the highlights were all 48 of the Valley Forge Choir members held a concert in the dinning room for the seniors, the St. Charles Girl Scout troop made holiday placemats and served lunch at the Christmas party and handed out presents. Seniors went to see Shrek at the Cassidy Theatre and loved it. They went to the Lorain County Community College to see Michael Cavanaugh and his rocking Christmas concert and a field trip to see the cosmetology students for manicures and facials. Joe Sebes is working on a recycle grant which we put out each year for funding our recycle mailer that goes out in the spring. The Citizens Police Academy will kick off late March, I highly encourage anybody who hasn't attended to attend, it's very informational, and informative. It will be posted on social media to get the word out. We are still waiting to hear about the demolition grant for the old library, we are still on track to break ground late spring for the new library. As for Kingsdale and North Church you should expect to see legislation over the next couple of months allowing us to go out to bid and get that started as long as council is on board with that. The Nathan Hale opening will be sometime in spring, we will be sure to let everyone know, including council so that everyone can attend. That concludes my report Mr. President, thank you.

Council President Rounds thanked the mayor and asked if there were any other comments or questions for Mayor Gallo? Councilwoman Durichko.....

Councilwoman Durichko added a comment, I second that Shrek was amazing. The costumes and the set were just awesome.

Mayor Gallo added that on that note, I would like to have Mike Caraffi come in since they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, so I'll have him in to discuss what's going on at the Cassidy Theatre this year.

Council President Rounds asked if there were any further comments or questions for Mayor Gallo? Seeing none....

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rounds moved through the agenda to Communications and we have none at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Rounds: If you would like to make a public comment, please address your comments to me as the Council President. You have up to 3 minutes to speak, state your name and address. The directors and council are taking notes on what you have to say, many times the directors will get back to you on comments. Any comments this evening? Seeing none, we'll move on into legislation.

LEGISLATION

2023 – 77: 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: DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 77**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1105 ENTITLED “STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL AND WETLANDS PROTECTION” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND RENAMING CHAPTER 1105 “EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL”, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds stated that this is the third reading for this item, are there any questions or comments? Seeing none.

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 78: 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, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 78**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ENACTING CHAPTER 1106 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, ENTITLED, “COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT” TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW CHAPTER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds stated that this is the third reading for this item, are there any questions or comments? Seeing none.

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 79: 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: Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 79**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ENACTING CHAPTER 1107 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, ENTITLED, “RIPARIAN SETBACKS” TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW CHAPTER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds stated that this is the third reading for this item. Any questions or comments?
Seeing none.

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

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 80: 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: Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2023 – 80**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ENACTING CHAPTER 1108 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, ENTITLED, “WETLAND SETBACKS” TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW CHAPTER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, AS AMENDED

Council President Rounds stated that this is the third reading, 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: Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2023 – 89: 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, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **RESOLUTION. 2023 – 89**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE CITY VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AT A PUBLIC SALE THROUGH

GOVPLANET/IRONPLANET

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

2024 - 1: ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

Council President Rounds motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to read the following ordinance by title only.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 1**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RULES OF ORDER GOVERNING THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Council President Rounds motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to Suspend the Rules.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, Rounds

Council President Rounds asked if are there any questions or comments on this ordinance? Seeing none.

Council President Rounds motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to move for passage.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

2024 - 2: 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: Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Rounds

Clerk Allen read: **ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 2**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.12 ENTITLED “UTILIZATION CHARGES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES” OF THE PARMA HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Maruschak motioned; seconded by Councilwoman DeSouza to Suspend the Rules.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Rounds

Council President Rounds asked if 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: Palmisano, DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Rounds

Ordinance Passes

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Council President Rounds moved to ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CERTAIN PERSONNEL MATTERS TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, AND/OR COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. Seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: DeSouza, Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, Rounds

Council President Rounds announced that we are adjourned into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. with no business to follow. We have returned from Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Rounds asked: Can I have a motion for adjournment? Councilwoman DeSouza motioned; seconded by Councilwoman Maruschak to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk Allen called Roll Call: Aye: Kolezynski, Maruschak, Durichko, Palmisano, DeSouza, Rounds

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Tom Rounds
President of Council