

Recreation Committee Minutes March 25, 2024

PRESENT: Committee Chair Lisa Maruschak, Committee Vice-Chair Sue Durichko, Committee member Chris Kolezynski and Council Clerk Allen.

IN THE AUDIENCE: Councilwomen DeSouza, Palmisano, Councilman Rounds

The meeting was called to order on Monday, March 25, 2024 by Chairwoman Maruschak at 5:30 p.m.

Clerk Allen called the Roll call: Kolezynski, Durichko and Maruschak

Chairwoman Maruschak began the discussion with Chapter 751: Mechanical Amusement Devices and Interactive Entertainment and Computer Sweepstake Devices. I wanted to include this in our discussion as a comparative of prices for the other chapters we'll be discussing. Councilman Kolezynski has a breakdown of the licensing and fees. Please read that into the record, section 751.04.

Kolezynski stated that he broke it down \$5,000 plus \$360 per machine for the first 1 – 40 machines; 41 -60 machines then it's \$4,000 plus \$360 for the first 40 and \$250 for each after; if it's above 60 machines then it's \$2,200 plus \$360 for the first 40, then \$250 for 40 – 60; then \$200 for 60 + but never more than \$25,000 total.

Chairwoman Maruschak stated that these prices have been in effect since 2012, so if we increase anything in these other chapters I don't feel it would be a heart ship considering some have been at the same rates since 1956. How do you feel about these prices in Chapter 751?

Kolezynski stated that he looked at other cities in terms of Mechanical Amusement Devices and Interactive Entertainment and Computer Sweepstake Devices, in Brooklyn it was \$75.00 per devise, Brook Park was \$50.00; Strongsville had \$75.00, Independence didn't regulate it compared to our \$100.00. It seems comparable to ours. Brooklyn was also comparable at \$5,000 plus \$500 for each machine after.

Chairwoman Maruschak added that she didn't anticipate a change in this section but we do need to be fiscally responsible to all of our businesses. Seeing that they've been paying this since 2012, we will move on to Chapter 719; Billiards and Pool Tables, I think we need to update from securing from Mayor to Department of Public Service and then the pricing in 719.01 is \$15 for one Billiard table and \$5 for each additional Billiard or Pool table, and that's from 1956. In Parma they show \$75 for the first and \$30 for each additional and those are current prices; Brook Park \$50 for one and \$50 for each additional and these are (2008 prices); North Royalton \$35 for the first 1 – 5 and \$75 for 5 - 10 which were current prices but a little different breakdown. Did anyone find any other prices to discuss?

Durichko added that the City of Parma probably the most different between the first table in our city and the first table in their city which is a \$60 difference and then each subsequent table is \$25 difference. Somewhere in the middle would be where I feel comfortable with.

Kolezynski agreed with that analogy.

Chairwoman Maruschak looked up on Google what \$15 in 1956 would be in today. It shows it's \$171.14 and I'm not saying we need to increase that much but an increase is in order. I'd like to open the floor for discussion.

Kolezynski stated that he would suggest not going over the Parma rates. I don't want to put burden onto our businesses or push them out of our city to another. They are a different population and larger tax base than we do as well.

Durichko added that an additional \$40 would take us up to \$55 for the first table; and then \$25 for each additional table would be fair.

Chairwoman Maruschak asked about the hours of operation, there are no Sunday hours. It reads; No person shall operate a billiard room or poolroom or permit any person to be or remain in such billiard room or poolroom any day of the week between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., except on Sunday, when any such billiard room or poolroom may be open for business only between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 2:30 a.m. of the following day.

Durichko added these are bar hours and if they wanted to have a league mid-morning on Sunday it's not address alcohol just the pool tables.

Chairwoman Maruschak added that maybe we can look up when other cities regulate hours or maybe we could just follow bar hours.

Durichko thought it might be a good idea to reach out to Tracy Augusto from Rookies and say is there a need for us to make these changes?

Kolezynski stated that he feels anytime we reach out the businesses it shows we're acting on good faith, whether or not we agree with them is another thing.

Chairwoman Maruschak then moved on to the final item on the agenda, Chapter 723; Bowling Alleys. This was pulled off the Council Agenda so that we could look at it in more detail. The change administration was asking council to consider was changing from the mayor to the Department of Public Service. I'd like to look at 723.01 which reads: the license is issued shall be eighteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$18.75) for one alley used in any bowling alley and six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) for each additional bowling alley kept in the place. Again, these are 1956 prices, almost 7 decades. We only have one property that this will affect here in the city. They are a great community partner. This is why I wanted to discuss Chapter 751 first, because they are paying for those machines that bring in revenue but when we're looking at being fiscally responsible and we've adjusted fees across the city with all our other businesses. What would be more reasonable updated cost for this section? Councilwoman Durichko...

Durichko stated that I think the most relevant is Parma on this section as well. The difference on the first alley is \$131.25 for additional alley's the difference is \$23.75. I think an increase is warranted, just without upsetting our partners.

Chairwoman Maruschak agreed. I did look in Brook Park as well. Pricing in Brook Park is \$15 for the first and then \$7 for each additional, but those are 1982 prices. Parma is \$150 for the first and \$30 for each after. A 60% increase would be like \$100 for the first and each additional \$25. I'd like to look at 723.02 which reads; All bowling alleys shall be closed and shall remain closed on Sunday between the hours of 3:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. They open from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Kolezynski commented that this is all from 1966, maybe we need to repeal this.

Chairwoman Maruschak stated that we can look at repealing this but because they are serving alcohol I don't know if we can do that. I think we would use the hours that we are using for bars.

Durichko asked if we could leave it the way it reads just update it so that reads from 3:30 am to 9:00 a.m. closed.

Chairwoman Maruschak stated that she agreed with that. In the meantime, if we can research any Billiard and Pool Halls here in Parma Heights. Maybe Councilman Kolezynski could assist to make it read more fluent and up-to-date across the board if we don't have any billiard or pool halls any more. They are more of a bar with pool tables. I'd like to review the minutes, have them sent over to the directors, call another meeting with them to get their input and then go into a work session before a council meeting and get everybody's input before we brought the legislation before council. Any further questions or concerns on any of the chapters we've discussed here tonight? Seeing none.

Chairwoman Maruschak made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Kolezynski.

Council Clerk: Roll Call: Aye: Durichko, Maruschak, Kolezynski

Recreation Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Lisa Maruschak
Chair, Recreation Committee

