

**CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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**January 4, 2021**

The Council President Boldt called the **REGULAR COUNCIL** meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

Mr. Price led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Robert Boldt (Ward 4 Councilor, President)  
Mr. Thomas Pavlica (Ward 1 Councilor)  
Mr. Brian Wolf (Ward 2 Councilor)  
Mr. George Stelmaschuk (Ward 3 Councilor, President Pro-Tem)  
Mr. Joe Price (Councilor At-Large)  
Ms. Jennifer Mahnic (Councilor At-Large)

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Mr. Glenn Goodwin (Councilor At-Large)

**OFFICER(S) PRESENT:** Mr. Samuel J. Alai (Mayor)  
Mr. Vince Ruffa (Law Director)  
Mr. Dave Pfaff (Finance Director)  
Chief Steven Raiff (Police Chief)  
Mr. David Schroedel (Service Director)  
Mr. Gary Yelenosky (City Engineer)  
Mr. Joe Mandato (Chief Building Official)  
Mrs. Amy Jo Washabaugh (Human Service Director)  
Ms. Amanda Hutcheson (Parks & Recreation Director)  
Mrs. Helen Dunlap (Clerk of Council)

**OFFICERS ABSENT:** Chief Jeffrey Hajek (Fire Chief)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Stelmaschuk moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated December 7 & 21, 2020 and Work Session Meeting Minutes dated December 7 & 21, 2020, Building Codes & Public Building, GPZ Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 7, 2020 and Rules, Ordinance and Franchises Committee along with the Building Codes and Public Buildings Committee meeting Minutes dated December 7, 2020 as submitted; seconded by Mr. Price. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. The minutes are approved as submitted.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS**

Mrs. Washabaugh stated Happy New Year. Senior Center Directors throughout the state are supposed to be on a webinar on January 19<sup>th</sup> with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to discuss the vaccination rollout for older adults in our community and she will keep council up to date on the information that she receives.

Until then Human Services will resume with limited activities. On Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> they will be continuing offering all programs virtually either in house or through our virtual partner working together. Also on February 1<sup>st</sup> grocery transportation will be reinstated on a one on one basis until COVID numbers decrease or otherwise directed by the Ohio Department of Aging or Transportation and she will keep council updated.

Mr. Boldt thanked Mrs. Washabaugh for the job that she is doing. He know that this is probably a difficult time to be in contact with all of those that need her department for the many things that they do.

Ms. Hutcheson stated she wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Mayor for this opportunity and for believing in her and giving her the chance of a lifetime. She also thanked council for all the words and support that they have given her and reaching out to her. It means so much to her. And the same to all of the department heads and their staff as well. She just wanted to say thank you. She also wanted to give a brief update and what they are doing in recreation. She is still working through the ropes but they are in the process and working with Mr. Schroedel to move all of the machines from the bottom floor to the fitness center so that they can get back to some normalcy and utilizing that equipment that has not been used in some time. Also in the next few weeks they will be starting to have some basketball games here which is exciting and they have been running some private swim lessons and small group as well. They are working on the brochure and trying to move forward and working on a lot of staff connections as well. She just wanted to give council a small update.

Mr. Boldt stated that he loves her enthusiasm.

#### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Alai stated that as you know we entered a new year and after what we have gone through he wants to tell them how good it looks. Do you folks realize that we are sitting here on January 4<sup>th</sup> and the Browns have a chance to win and are in the Play-offs and Ohio State is playing for the National Championship? He thinks that 2021 is starting off dam good. He is very hopeful and optimistic. He wants to thank this council from the bottom of his heart for doing something that we have never done in this city and that is to pass a budget before the year started which gave him the opportunity this morning, this is the advantage that he took for not starting budget hearings as we do after Christmas, but getting together with his staff including Mrs. Washabaugh and including the rest of the staff and start looking at what our hopes and dreams are for this coming year and being able to actually plan a future because it was on hold all of last year so he wants to thank them for that opportunity to jump into this quickly and start moving on the future of this city and post COVID Broadview Heights.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

None this evening.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, CLAIMS AND PETITIONS

None this evening.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Price stated that the BZA will be meeting this Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Auxiliary Gym. There is one lot width variance being requested. The Rules, Ordinance and Franchise along with the

Building Codes & Public Buildings Committee met tonight and a number of items were moved for discussion at a future Council Work Session.

Mr. Wolf stated that they had a Safety/Service Committee meeting tonight and he thinks they will have a great future with storm water. An increase in capacity for new developments and new buildings. They also have a Human Services Advisory Board meeting January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Willow Room at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Mahnic stated that the Shade Tree Commission meeting dates have been added to their Dropbox calendar but as far as she knows they are going to continue to Zoom their meetings until COVID begins to settle down. She doesn't know if Mr. Schroedel has mentioned to the Mayor but one of the members has suggested that if there is someone else that would like to be on the Commission that she would be more than welcome to step down. She thinks that this person has been doing it for more than 25 years. So if the Mayor has someone in mind or Mr. Schroedel could talk to the Mayor about this.

#### RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

None this evening

#### RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Boldt presented Resolution 2021-01 for a first reading. Mr. Wolf moved to suspend Council Rule; seconded by Mr. Pavlica. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. Motion passed. Clerk read once by title only. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED BY WAY OF INTERNET AUCTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Wolf moved to adopt Resolution 2021-01; seconded by Mr. Pavlica. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. Resolution 2021-01 is adopted.

Mr. Boldt presented Resolution 2021-02 for a first reading. Mr. Wolf moved to suspend Council Rule; seconded by Mr. Pavlica. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. Motion passed. Clerk read once by title only. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY ARMOR PROGRAMS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Wolf moved to adopt Resolution 2021-02; seconded by Mr. Pavlica. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. Resolution 2021-02 is adopted.

#### ORDINANCES

Mr. Boldt presented Ordinance 44-2020 for a second reading only. Clerk read once by title only. AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 79-37 IN THE CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Stelmaschuk moved to authorize the payment of annual membership dues to the Northeast Ohio City Council Association in the amount of \$400.00; seconded by Mr. Wolf. Roll Call: Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Pavlica, yes; Ms. Mahnic, yes; Mr. Stelmaschuk, yes; Mr. Boldt, yes; Mr. Wolf, yes. Motion approved.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mr. Boldt stated that before they do Council Discussion he asked if the Scout that was here this evening needs to be on the record for being here. The Scout stated no. Mr. Boldt stated that if she has any questions or needs anything signed to see them after the meeting.

Mr. Price stated he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year and he appreciated the Mayor's comments and he wrote down Hope for 2021.

Mr. Wolf stated Happy New Year and O-H.

Mr. Boldt and Ms. Mahnic replied I-O.

Mr. Wolf stated Go Browns.

Mr. Stelmaschuk stated Happy New Year to everyone and let's hope that it turns out better than the last one.

Mr. Pavlica stated Happy New Year and let's hope that 2021 is a lot better.

Mr. Boldt stated that he hopes that everyone has their best year coming up. He stated that the February meeting dates are going to be February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. He also has a bunch of constituents that are asking about internet. It always comes up to this council and if this administration is going to do anything about expanding the internet in the City of Broadview Heights. He asked the Mayor to see if there is any way that we can get another internet provider to come to the City. He thinks that the residents so that he could get back to them, he knows that the last time it is more of an overhead and hardware issue. Everyone wants lower internet rates but at this point, is it true that the State controls it now and the City doesn't and also the hardest part is them investing in Broadview Heights by running their own cable lines.

Ms. Mahnic stated that she thought that most people had multiple, like where she lives they have several internet cable companies that she could use. She knows that some areas that they only have one choice.

Mr. Boldt stated that the history of it is this, COX was here for many years and they opened it up to AT&T last time they brought this up but the City still ran the internet and what providers could come into the City. He believes that the State of Ohio has taken over where we don't have any authority to do it so we are relying upon other internet providers to come forward and at this point everybody wants more internet providers to come forward but they need to run their own cable in order for that to happen and it is just not worth it at this point. He asked the Mayor if that is a correct statement.

Mayor Alai stated that is correct. Anybody who wants to provide a service needs to put the cable in and the infrastructure but it is open to any provider in the world but they need to come in and put in the

infrastructure in order to do that. And Mr. Boldt is correct in that we no longer have the ability any more to say who can and can't come in.

Mr. Wolf stated that you want to look the Telecom Act of 1996 to get the details as to the deregulation of local control of any of those entities and yes any infrastructure needs to be put in by those companies. There are some wireless satellite infrastructure that is going in. It is not available yet but that is something to look at.

Mr. Boldt thanked Mr. Wolf for that information.

**COUNCIL OPEN TO THE RESIDENTS**

None this evening.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Boldt stated that with no further business to come before Council, this meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



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CLERK OF COUNCIL, HELEN DUNLAP



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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, ROBERT BOLDT