

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 1 OF 6**

The Meeting was called to order by President Robert Sepik at 8:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Kolasinski, Koch, Verdile, Sepik, DeSouza, Johnson, McCall, all present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

DeSouza reported The Finance Committee reviewed expenditures totaling \$1,253,076.97 the majority of those expenses were for pre-approved projects, payroll, and pension costs. The payroll was \$340,000.00 pensions were \$49,000.00 and Independence Blvd, refuse bills, debt collection and Fire Station parking lot was \$37,000.00 and engineering expenses. Those were all expenses that were expected and budgeted for.

Sepik asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Sepik motioned seconded by Verdile to approve the January 2, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call: Koch, Verdile, Sepik, DeSouza, Johnson, McCall, Kolasinski, all yes.

JANUARY 2, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS

Bill Litten, Director of Recreation reported that the 2009-2010 soccer registration for the spring session will be on January 28th and February 2nd from 6 to 8 P.M. right here at City Hall. There should be flyers coming out to all the local schools here pretty soon.

Judy McLaughlin, Director of Senior Center reported a reminder the Senior Newsletter comes out once a month and it includes all of our activities and information to help the seniors. The newsletter can be picked up at City Hall you can also pick them up at The Senior Center and if you like you can call The Senior Center and get on the mailing list or it is on the website.

Marilyn Snyder, Director of Personnel reported that the 2009 Income Tax forms are on the website and the directions are also posted.

Rich Rob, Director of Safety reported the final Rod summary which was the traffic enforcement detail which we took money out of the ambulance fund for. The detail came within 25 tickets of last year, so again it was very successful. We wrote 1175 different violations the bulk of them were for speed, seat belt, traffic control devices, and 25 or 30 other things. The last couple of weeks we have had a couple of things happen the first is the home invasion that I am sure you heard of. We are going to do this at a Council Meeting I will come in here with the individuals from our Police Department and other department that were involved. Basically, three individuals went into a house in Parma Heights and held the family hostage. It is a long story but our Police Department was

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 2 OF 6**

able to arrest two that night and one the next day and no one got hurt except the individual who came home, he got accosted in the driveway. We also have had burglaries of sheds in backyards on Reid Drive and they made an arrest in that case. I have some information on a H1N1 Clinic at Normandy High School which is free on Sunday, January 24th from 9:00 to 12:30 and I have that if anyone wants to get a shot. The last thing I have is we have received a message that the Port Authority is making available pieces of the World Trade Center the stipulation is you have to use it in a memorial to the general public. I spoke with the Mayor today about it and the Fire Chief and I am sure we can come up with somebody who can construct a memorial. I spoke with Joe Sebes about maybe putting it in the park we will be constructing shortly. Sepik stated that I am sure the residents of Reid will be pleased I know yourself and Mayor Byrne have been working hard with The Police Department to try to solve that problem.

Rich Wasosky, City Engineer reported the water line bid for Doxmere, Calamie, Amrap, Kings Highway, and Mandalay will be bid at the end of this month.

Joe Tal, Director of Service reported that I am happy to say that we got through the leaf pick-up this year. Friday's storm was not too bad, but tonight we got more snow than we expected our guys are out right now salting the streets. They are out there now, and I am proud of the job those guys do out there.

Terry Hickey, Director of Finance reported I have a brief comment we almost completed closing out 2009 year as far as The Finance Department and where the bookkeeping is concerned. This is a preliminary report as I mentioned to the Mayor this afternoon, the General Fund ending balance is about \$75, 000.00 higher than I last projected it in December. This is not the end of our problems but certainly a point in the right direction.

Sepik stated that before I ask the next person if we have any items from him, I would like to welcome the new Mayor and our new Councilmember JoAnn Koch to Council and Mike Byrne to Mayor.

Mayor Byrne reported Mr. President congratulations on your election to President of Council, Councilwoman DeSouza as Pro-Tem, Jennifer as Clerk of Council, and Asst. Clerk of Council Jackie Cornhoff , and also to Councilwoman JoAnn Koch I am looking forward to working with all members of Council. Mr. President for your consideration this evening there are three appointees I would like to submit and hope that you approve. The first is to The Board of Zoning Appeals and it is a term for three years. I would like you consider Mr. Fred Crow, Fred is employed with Collinwood Concrete and he and his wife have three children and reside at 6908 Greenleaf. They have been residents since 1991 and Fred and his family are members of Divinity Lutheran Church and also a commissioner of the Tri-City Football League. I appreciate your consideration to Mr. Crow for being to the BZA.

Sepik motioned seconded by DeSouza to accept Fred Crow to The BZA.

Roll Call: Verdile, Sepik, DeSouza, Johnson, McCall, Kolasinski, Koch, all yes.

FRED CROW APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 3 OF 6**

Byrne stated thank you and I have another one for your consideration Mark Papke to The Planning Commission for a term of six years. Mark is currently The City Engineer for the City of Seven Hills. Mark graduated from Padua High School and got a Bachelor's Degree from Fenn College of Engineering at Cleveland State. At Fenn he was in The American Society of Civil Engineers he was Student Chapter President and earned the award of Outstanding Senior of the Year, The CSU Community Service Initiative, and Wolf Watson Bridge Award. Mark is currently completing his graduate work for his Master's Degree from the University of Dayton, where he was awarded a scholarship by Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute. Mark is married to Hope they have three active children Brennan, Gabriel, and Cory. Corey was Seven Hills 2007 cutest toddler. We are very fortunate to have Mark serve on this board.

Sepik motioned seconded by DeSouza to accept Mark Papke to The Planning Commission.

Roll Call: Sepik, DeSouza, Johnson, McCall, Kolasinski, Koch, Verdile, all yes.

MARK PAPKE APPOINTED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Byrne stated the last appointee is here tonight I would like your consideration for Thomas Kocka to be appointed to The Planning Commission for a term of six years. Tom is a Licensed Professional Engineer he owns Tom's Engineering. Tom is a graduate of Valley Forge High School, and obtained his Mechanical Engineering Degree from Cleveland State. Tom has been a resident since 1989 and resides on Huffman Avenue.

Sepik motioned seconded by Verdile to accept Tom Kocka to The Planning Commission.

Roll Call: DeSouza, Johnson, McCall, Kolasinski, Koch, Verdile, Sepik, all yes.

THOMAS KOCKA APPOINTED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Byrne stated the last thing I would like to add Mr. President is that I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Council Members as well as the Residents and Business Community of Parma Heights. I feel very optimistic and enthused about some potential developments in Parma Heights. I think we have a great base and foundation with the employees in The City of Parma Heights and look forward to working with you to see what we can accomplish.

PUBLIC SESSION

Gary Holodnak, 6030 Pearl Road stated that first congratulations Mayor I have a good feeling there is a whole new attitude here. Congratulations to the Council Members. I have a couple quick point's one about the red light/speed cameras. I talked to Alex about this a week ago. I want you to be weary of one thing and I found this the internet look for rear-end collisions and red-light cameras. You will find The New York Times did an article on them and found these companies come in and screw with the yellow lights. They take the time limit way down which generates more tickets, but the truth is there is

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 4 OF 6**

not enough time to get through the yellow light. The first time someone gets a ticket they start slamming on their brakes and rear-ends triple as soon as they put these in. I am not telling you to not put them in, but you cannot let them play with the yellow lights because they have done that everywhere. They get in the control boxes and they cut the yellow back and every study shows that rear-end collisions go through the roof every study shows this. It is imperative that you time out your yellow lights before they come in to establish your standard and do not cut them down to one second. You do not have to take my word for it there is plenty of documentation. The truth is I am not against the cameras. I have tried this before and I will try this again if you want to contact with the highest people at Ford, because I have access to all of them. I can set-up you up a meeting in regard to hybrid vehicles. No matters how I do the numbers they are free the amount of money you save on hybrid vehicles pays for vehicle. The average miles here are around 250,000 they ran 400 of them in New York at a time they ran them up to 300,000 miles. They ran them up in San Francisco the most brutal environment there is and the cars in New York and San Francisco were all ran to the 300,000 miles with barely any maintenance. You get the vehicles for free. As far as acceleration for the Police Department you are looking at one tenth of a second for acceleration. The mileage will be triple as far as what you are getting now. As far as cornering it handles one tenth of (not audible). I would like you to look at these cars. There is no reason not to get vehicles that put a Police Officer at a better vantage point.

Wasosky stated that in the State of Ohio there minimum yellow light you can have by law is three seconds; currently the lights on Pearl Road are three and a half seconds. We had the lights timed on Pearl Road in a traffic probe when they synchronized the system. I am not going to be giving permission to be changing yellows that do not meet state standards.

Rob stated there is a provision in the contract about the timing of the lights; Red Flex does not do our lights.

DeSouza asked Rob do you have a copy of the contract and can you double check that they cannot mess with the timing of the lights. Rob stated that we will not go against State Law and I am not even sure if they will even be in there to set-up the cameras.

Christina Farinella, 6836 Beresford Stated that The Americans with Disabilities Act is very specific on what the timing has to be and they are looking at making it longer. The reason is people in wheelchairs cannot get across the street in the time it takes for these lights to change. I believe on January 21 the State is going to have a decision on whether or not the cameras are legal. The City of Cleveland is waiting for this to come out, because a lot of people are refusing to pay their tickets.

Doug Schuster, 6824 Oakwood stated I would like to preference that the people of Parma Heights would not like to see any increase of any kind of fees when it comes to garbage or taxes or anything else. Saying that it is what it is and there was a good discussion this evening at the Work Session. In light of what Mr. Verdile please try and look at all different avenues not just put it on the residents of single family homes before you make your decisions. I know there are income issues, but there are 3,500 people that live in apartments that have all the positives the City has to offer regarding Fire, Police and

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 5 OF 6**

Service and so forth. They do not have property taxes even though they are residents maybe an occupancy fee could be looked at in stead of going with the garbage fee right now. Since we are trying to take care of this year's budget maybe we could look at a one time resident or occupancy fee for all of Parma Heights. We are all residents and should all be in this together it should not be that the homeowner takes it again and the apartment people do not. Not all apartment people are on a fixed income as you put it, there are a lot of people my age living in apartments that work and pay their City taxes. I think there are a lot of avenues maybe checking into collecting back taxes and see what that does instead of putting it on the garbage or refuse collection fee. Myself right now I am not on a fixed income I am on a negative income the last three years due to a wage freeze or a reduction in hours. There are some that get social security and have the option to work and also received increases this year.

Sepik stated as Council and as residents we sympathize with you no one wants their fees increased for anything.

Schuster responded you do not want to stop people from moving into Parma Heights if these fees get locked forever.

Sepik stated we agree with you, but we have to raise revenue and that is why we are looking at options and that is why we are having these discussions in open meetings to think of any other ways we can do this.

Schuster asked is it possible to look at a one year and then re-visit this again next year instead of locking something in, once the fee goes in it will be hard pressed to take it away.

Byrne replied I brought this to Council early to keep them in the loop and to be as transparent as possible. The administration is doing what you just brought we are researching the matter. As quickly as this measure can be passed it can be rescinded also, so we are looking at hopefully not a long term but a short term solution to the problem.

Christina Farinella, 6836 Beresford stated that in regard to the garbage pick-up as soon as you do that aren't you worried that you are going to cause the School Levy to fail, because people just do not have any more money to give. You need to take that into consideration too, that is going to hurt our property values. The other thing I work for a housing authority and we have a recycling program beyond anything you can imagine and we have cut back on our garbage pick-up to the point we saved so much on our dumping fee. If you are going to do this for a year, can you consider educating the residence to do more recycling so you can renegotiate your waste management.

Sepik stated absolutely we can send out more literature on the recycling and we do that every year.

Sebes stated we have been doing that for about the last four years working with The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. They have been paying with a grant to send our flyers out on an annually basis advising residence on how to save on recycling.

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
PAGE 6 OF 6**

Barbara Mazzola, 6029 Edgebrook stated there are a few things I would like to address if you are going to charge for rubbish I think you need to look into mandatory recycling. If you recycle maybe the fee could be less, they do this all over the country and there is no reason we cannot do this. Washington does mandatory recycling now.

Verdile asked do you know if there are fines there for not recycling?

Mazzola replied that I can find out we have a daughter who lives out there.

DeSouza motioned seconded by Johnson to adjourn.

Roll Call: Johnson, McCall, Kolasinski, Koch, Verdile, Sepik, DeSouza, all yes.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Jennifer Krepina
Clerk of Council

Robert p. Sepik
Council President