

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 30, 2010
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES
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The meeting was called to order by President Robert Sepik at 7:00 P.M.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Sepik motioned seconded by McCall to approve the January 11, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes.

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

JANUARY 11, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

DeSouza motioned seconded by Sepik to read by title only.

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

ORDINANCE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY.

DeSouza read AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSE AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2010 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2010, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DeSouza stated this is the third of three readings.

Sepik asked if there were any questions or comments.

There were none.

DeSouza motioned seconded by Sepik to approve the Ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES. ORDINANCE IS 2010-4.

Johnson read the following Ordinance in its entirety.

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Johnson read AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 965.11 (SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEE) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Johnson motioned seconded by DeSouza to suspend the rules.

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

RULES SUSPENDED.

Johnson explained that passing this legislation would allow the City to charge for rubbish collection.

Sepik asked if there were any questions or comments.

Thomas Bursinger, 6158 Stratford feels the City should look at regionalization and be absorbed by Parma or Middleburg Heights. Bursinger will have to either pay the garbage fees or vote for the School Levy he cannot afford both.

Christine Rezabeau, 11320 Holliston Lane wants to know why this fee is being implemented now with the School Levy coming up and other alternatives to budget cuts so residents do not have to pay this fee.

Byrne answered that he did not want to hold this and play politics and it would have raised the rate of the bill the City is asking for. The fee is part of the puzzle the City has cut a million dollars from the budget with lay-offs, pay-cuts, and furloughs this fee will help with a missing piece of the puzzle in the budget.

Rezabeau asked why the Mayor and Council got raises.

Byrne explained by Charter as an elected official we have received a raise. I took an 11 ½% pay cut, you are not allowed to cut your pay per Ohio Revised Code but you donate back and I did.

Rezabeau wants more cuts within the City for example the Safety Director, Senior Director, And Asst. Law Director.

Byrne explained that he has been restructuring and is still working on changes, but we still have to have people to operate.

Kevin Covell, 5923 Calamie Drive wants to know if Council has given any of there salary back and feels that the rubbish fee will not be temporary, but a permanent measure.

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Sepik stated that all of Council has donated some of their salary back to the City.

Sally Gorman, 10006 Beaconsfield concerned with all the vacant homes in the City and would like to be informed on how the garbage fee was determined and how it will be implemented.

Byrne explained we looked at many options and we decided on garbage fee. The \$11.42 a month is exactly what the garbage company would charge the City. It breaks down to \$10.82 x 6,140 houses and then the 60 cents for billing. The City is picking up the fuel charge and any additional charges for tonnage.

Tammy Sebastian, 6814 Revere believes you need to give back to your community and is supportive of the garbage fee.

Angela Lovell, 6418 Newland displeased with the Police Department for not citing a car illegally parked and now has to pay a fee for garbage for their service.

Rob explained the Police right hundreds of handicap parking tickets, but the spot has to be properly marked under State Code.

Ed McNeely, 9299 Lynnhaven has been in the City for 40 years and cannot believe that he will be charged a garbage fee.

Betty Isgro, 5840 Calamie has lived in the City for 54 years feels that garbage is an essential service and she understands and supports the garbage fee to help the City. It is a time for people to stand up and support the community.

Michelle Wolf, (not audible) Greenleaf wants to see the tickets that have been written and where the revenue is from them.

Byrne explained we have a new Prosecutor and Magistrate and they are doing an excellent job. The first stop sign ticket is no longer dismissed as a warning and with speeders you need to call the Police Department with the trouble area so we can get someone out there.

Henry Fong, 5900 Hodgeman displeased with the Police not ticketing for speeders they put a speed machine out and that does nothing. Fong also expressed that if the Fire Department is so great why did that woman die on Ackley.

Byrne explained that when you call you have no idea what may be going on with the Police at the time you call. The Police will be having a special detail again this year to enforce speeding laws.

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Cindy Rosko, 6295 Old Virginia Lane would like to know if Council will revisit the issue of garbage fees every year so residents realize it may not be on the books forever.

Sepik said Council will revisit this issue every year and negotiations for a new garbage contract begins this year.

DeSouza said as Chairman of Finance this fee will be looked at every year and I commit that to you.

Michael Scuro, 6662 Fernhurst suggested that we get rid of the traps for animals and not have the service of animal control. The small amount of residents that use the service should be responsible to handle the problem on there own.

Lynda Strunak, 6650 Newbury wanted to know has the City explored stimulus money, regionalization, or collecting garbage every other week.

Sepik stated the every other week pick-up would not change the tonnage issue and could cause a problem with the Board of Health.

Sebes stated that there is no stimulus money at this time to off set the cost of garbage.

Byrne we are negotiating to try to get on the same cycle as another city and we are looking into every avenue there is.

George Doyle, 6024 Deering Avenue would like to see the citizens of this City start to do more recycling to reduce the tonnage.

Kathleen Kyler, 6908 Beresford would like to know if grants for recycling have been looked into and would also like to mention that we as residents do give back to our community.

Sebes stated that a lot of grants have dried up, but is looking at a Recycling Awareness Grant Program. This grant tries to promote recycling and many options of how to recycle and other places you may take materials if the City does not.

Larry Vlum, 6507 Hamden inquired about the Integrity Dealership and Cornerstone to see the status with these properties.

Byrne there is some interests in the Integrity property. Cornerstone has been a disaster, but it is quickly going through foreclosure and there does seem to be some interest in the property. There is great potential with those two properties.

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Sebes stated that Cornerstone is private property so there is not a lot we can do, but we have been reaching out for new businesses. We have been sending out informative packets and they describe the Parma Heights.

Bob Felty, 10502 Halcyon Drive would like a Sunset clause put into this legislation, so that no one can come in and use these fees to make a profit down the road a Sunset clause would protect the residents.

Byrne stated that it was important to do three readings on this legislation, but to balance the budget it has to be in place by April 1st. To change this now would be having to start from scratch, but the clause could be added to the legislation next year. Council and I do promise to re-visit this fee every year. Give us a chance and we will turn this City around.

Felty wants to be assured that the Sunset clause will be looked to change the legislation in the future.

Sepik stated we will discuss it at a Work Session.

Don DeSantis, 6245 Holbrook Drive would like to know if the Party in the Park will be cancelled this year.

Byrne the Party in the Park is great, but as of right now I cannot commit any money to that at this time.

(Resident not audible) has confusion over the letter sent to residents over trash collection the letter states that it is for rubbish and recycling. Would like to know how the senior discount works and can certain people be exempt.

Byrne stated the City does do recycling and that was a typo. They are working on a Century Fund that may be able to assist residents with these matters.

Tal stated that you present the card with the garbage bill and it will be a dollar off a month.

Julie Lauter, 6644 Fernhurst Avenue The Parma Heights News does have that Parma Heights is doing the Memorial Parade and it does cost the City money. In these times why do we have to have this Parade?

McCall considers the parade to be very important to the City and we should find ways to fund the parade. McCall committed \$500.00 of his own money to support the parade.

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Rick Schwachenwald, 6841 Commonwealth Blvd. would like to know how the members of Council will vote tonight.

Sepik stated you will know shortly when we vote.

Doug Schuster, 6824 Oakwood Road would like a synopsis of where some of the cuts made by the Mayor and Council and where is the red light camera system at.

Byrne there are no projections on Red Flex there is no way for the company to project that with every intersection and city being different. A quick run down there were pay reductions at City Hall which is \$ 146,249.000 all directors salaries have been reduced which is little over \$ 80,000 and we are asking for concessions from the Police and Fire Department.

Christine Rezabeau, 11320 Holliston Lane would like to know why was nothing done in 2008 knowing this was coming.

Byrne stated he is not sure what you want me to say I did make many suggestions as Council President, but was unable to implement them. I do wish other things would have been done, but I am not the man to ask about that.

Ken Lear stated there are so many issues and unless you go to the meetings and understand things you cannot attack the. There are contracts and bargaining units, the dynamic between Council and the Mayor. The Council can make suggestion, but they cannot administrate. I as a previous Councilman butted heads with Mayor Cassidy as to where the power lies.

Johnson motioned seconded by McCall to approve Ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES. ORDINANCE IS 2010-5.

Kolasinski read the following Ordinance in its entirety.

This is the 3rd reading of this Ordinance.

Kolasinski read AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 965.01 (DEFINITIONS) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Kolasinski stated this concludes the third reading.

Kolasinski motioned seconded by Sepik to approve Ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES. ORDINANCE IS 2010-6.

Sepik motioned seconded by Johnson to adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.

Jennifer Krepina
Clerk of Council

Robert P. Sepik
Council President