

**CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 28, 2010
8:00 P.M.
MINUTES
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The meeting was called to order by President Robert Sepik at 8:00 P.M.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Sepik motioned seconded by DeSouza to excuse Councilman Kolasinski.

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

COUNCILMAN KOLASINSKI EXCUSED.

Byrne at this time presented Proclamations to the Holy Name Baseball Team, Kevin Lancki, and Anamika Veeramani. (Proclamations attached to these minutes).

Terry Hickey, Director of Finance presented the 2010 Tax Budget. The tax budget is required by Ohio Revised Code that each city has to fulfill. The purpose is that this will be the first pass on next year's budget in a preliminary fashion. The purpose is to estimate revenues and expenditures for the up-coming fiscal year for Parma Heights it is Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. The tax collected is the vehicle through which we communicate to the Budget Commission. This is a division of the Cuyahoga County Auditors Office that is responsible for reviewing property tax rates, setting rates, and monitoring financial activities in the City. We estimate revenues and expenditures, complete the tax budget, and send it into the Commission. In the beginning of November they respond to the City with the estimated property tax rates and collection amounts for the up-coming fiscal year. In the case of Parma Heights we have by our Charter we are permitted to levy 10 mills as a property tax rate. That is divided between the General Fund gets 6.9 mills, the Retirement Fund gets 1.5 mills, the Capitol improvement fund and Recreation each get a half of a mill, and Police and Fire Pension gets three tenths of a mill. That will add up to ten mills. The purpose of the tax budget is to demonstrate the need to levy the mills that we need that the Charter says we are aloud to levy. You do that by estimating revenues and expenditures for the up-coming year. This budget reflects flat revenues and flat expenditures for the up-coming year. The economy that we are suffering through personally and as a City the revenues may change significantly for next year. We are estimating though that revenues are going to remain the same. We have to at this stage in the game continue reduction measures in the budget through 2011. Assuring the county will let us levy the full ten mills there is a slight built in increase in property tax values. The increase will be 3.3% and that provides a buffer in property tax evaluations. Property values were evaluated in 2009 and property values went down in Parma Heights by 11%.

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This tax budget provides for an increase the value from \$348, 000.000.00 roughly to \$360,000, 000.00. This budget is created to allow us to levy the full 10 mills. The amounts will be 2,484,000 for General Fund, 540,000 for Retirement, Capitol Improvement and Recreation each gets 180,000 and Police and Fire Pension each get 108,000.

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

Sepik motioned seconded by DeSouza to accept the 2011 Tax Budget.

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

2011 TAX BUDGET APPROVED.

DeSouza reported The Finance Committee reviewed expenses in the amount of \$631,333.78. The summary is payroll \$ 333,947.00, Workers Comp \$ 138,427.00, part payment for Independence Blvd Project \$ 25,126.00, PERS for City employees \$ 38,020.00, Ohio Treasurer \$ 31, 769.00 and hardware and software maintenance fee for E 911 phone system \$ 19, 173.00.

Verdile reported The Planning Commission met on June 9, 2010 at 5:00 P.M.

Consideration of an outdoor patio at Rookies Bar, 6913 West 130th Street. Application made by Bernie Piesk. Denied.

Discussion with representative of Good Time Charlie's Bar and Grill regarding sweepstake machines.

Sepik asked Verdile to explain what sweepstake machines are.

Verdile stated there are a computer type operation and am unsure what the operation of if it that is why we are looking to get more information about them. The machine though is in effect for gambling.

Sepik at this time would like to honor Councilman Johnson who is resigning his last day will be June 30th (Proclamation attached to minutes).

Johnson introduced his wife Michelle, Step daughter Julia, and Mom. Johnson thanked his wife and mother for all there help and support. Johnson thanked all the labor unions, residents, Mayor, and his friends on Council who have become another family to him. Johnson also wanted to mention that he will miss the regulars that come to all the Council Meetings.

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Verdile congratulates Johnson on his recent marriage and wishes him all the luck in the world.

DeSouza honored to have him as a colleague and friend.

McCall has had a lot of fun and always felt there was honesty between the two of them and he will be missed.

Koch wished Johnson the best of luck in everything and have a happy marriage.

Sepik thankful for all of Johnson's many years of service on Council and best of luck to you and your new wife and step daughter.

Byrne wishes Johnson nothing but the best for him, Michelle, and Julia. Johnson made so much out of the opportunity he was given at a very young age. Alex has always had a lot of conviction and will be missed.

Sebes wished Alex best wishes and expressed what a gentlemen Alex has always been.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Tom Moran, Recreation Director reported on the basketball league that starts in July at Kurtz Park. Moran is looking for more people to sign up for the flag football program.

Sepik stated that is a great football program you are running.

McCall said that he has been getting compliments on how well the fields are looking in the City.

Judy McLaughlin, Senior Center Director reported that July 6th there will be a local farmer at the Senior Center and that will be every Tuesday from 2:00 to 4:00.

Rich Rob, Director of Safety reported that the Police Department caught some individuals that had a check cashing scam all over the United States. They were part of the Russian Organized Crime. The arrest was so important that The FBI, Secret Service, ICE, and homeland security were all there the next day to talk with these people. Yesterday there was a really bad storm. I drove around the City to survey the damage and checked with the Police Department.

Rich Wasosky, City Engineer reported that Independence has been paved from Ames to Tobik. Amrap has the waterline in now and Kings Highway should be getting their new lines in the next few weeks.

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Michelle Teresi, Director of Service reported that as of this afternoon there are still about 800 people without power. They are hoping to restore service no later than Tuesday or Wednesday. Any residents that have storm damage please keep putting debris on the tree lawn and we will be out to pick it up.

Verdile stated that you and your staff are doing a wonderful job.

Mayor Byrne reported that he would like to thank the directors for all the hard work that they do. To comment on the library issue it was amazing how well Parma Heights was represented at the last meeting for the library. We went back and did research and Parma Heights is very interesting when it comes to the library. It may be one of the first where the residents went to bond to pay for it. The City has kept its end of the bargain with every improvement they have requested. The library has said that they are willing to keep talks open for the location, and have seen the passion Parma Heights has for the facility.

PUBLIC SESSION

Scotty Mason, 6392 Stratford Drive stated what an important asset the library is and is hoping that everyone is working as hard as possible to keep it.

Rick Schwachenwald, 6841 Commonwealth stated that let's get the word out about the library maybe in the Mayor's Newsletter. The residents of the City need to know what has gone into the library and what vehicles can be used to save it.

Donna Marchese, 6453 Lawnwood Avenue stated that she has been attending the meetings in regard to the library and is glad the Mayor is keeping contact with the libraries directors. Marchese questioned the poor condition of the road leading to the reservoir.

Teresi commented that she will look into that.

Marchese wanted to know if when North Royalton converts the Avalon into a large YMCA will Parma Heights residents get deals there?

Moran answered not that he is aware of.

Marchese questioned Sepik why he feels a consultant should be brought in to help with divide the wards. Marchese feels Council can do the division of the wards without paying a consultant.

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Pokorny stated that his recommendation stems from the fact no one here has ever done this before. It is Council's choice but my recommendation for a consultant you have heard my rational before.

Sepik stated that once we begin the process we will see how it goes, but we will do what is best for the City and the residents. I do not want to have to go back a year from now because something was not done correctly.

Brian Alpert, 6463 Fairweather Drive, Middleburg Heights is questioning the ticketing by Redflex. Alpert wants to know who owns the Redflex equipment and who calibrates the radar. Alpert tried to call the company and it was the wrong number. Who takes responsibility for these mistakes? Alpert stated that he is not sure he was even driving the car it may have been a friend. Redflex wants a signed affidavit and does not think that is reasonable and what if they cannot find it who is responsible.

Sepik stated that Redflex owns the van and all the equipment.

Rob stated that the officer in the van calibrates the radar and does it twice per shift in the van. The wrong number was on Redflex and is being corrected. The burden of proof as to who was driving the car is the owner of the vehicles responsibility. In the state of Ohio we are not permitted to take a photo of the driver.

Byrne stated he would take the responsibility for the mistake there was a number on the ticket we never called it and it took us till this afternoon to figure out what the problem was. Redflex is doing new printing but that does not help the tickets that have already gone out.

Alpert feels Redflex is just a tool for making the City a profit.

Tammy Sebastian, 6814 Revere stated that she loves the Redflex program. She lives on a street that gets a lot of high school traffic and there are not enough police officers to man all around the schools.

John Slobodian, 9525 Greenbriar stated that he wants to keep the library and does not understand how they plan on spending millions of dollars to renovate and cannot afford to keep our library. In regard to the storm I was up until 7:00 P.M. without power, but I believe my neighborhood has a larger problem with the electrical grid. This is the second time in a week we have gone without power.

Teresi stated that she understands his frustration she is also one of the people that has gone without power. Teresi said she already has a call into Doug Hogan from the Illuminating Company to do an evaluation of our specific area.

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Fred Koch, 11687 Woodview addressed Alex Johnson and stated that he can get a sign up faster than anyone I have ever seen. Koch said after 36yrs of marriage and two kids there are six spirited words "Daddy can I borrow the car". Koch would like to apologize he has no snide comments this evening and does so with a smile. (Laughter)

Gary Holodnak, 6030 Pearl Road asked who picks up the recycling and do we make money off of the recycling?

Sepik stated the City picks up the recycling.

Teresi stated that we do receive revenue back from recycling.

Holodnak wants to know if we make more money than it costs on the recycling? The reason for asking is he thinks that Cleveland has a good recycling system and maybe Parma Heights should research it.

John Slobodian, 9525 Greenbriar would like to know why the City does not pick up glass for recycling.

Sepik stated that for awhile there was no market for glass and it is a safety issue for our service workers.

Tom Kocka, 12335 Huffman is very encouraged as to how the City has come together on the issue of the library. Kocka would also like to address Alex Johnson and let him know how much he is respected and what a good job he did.

Bob Felty, 10502 Halcyon Drive stated that in March there were three meetings in regard to the trash fees and Council was asked to add a sunset clause. Felty wants to know why nothing has been brought to the floor about the Sunset Clause.

Sepik stated that we said we would look at putting the clause in and we are waiting for the garbage contract to come up in August.

Felty stated that Council said they would put in and sunset clause and feels like this is the bait and switch.

Sepik stated that is not the case and no one on Council said we would put in the clause, but we promise to re-visit this issue every year.

Kevin Covell, 5923 Calamie wants the sunset clause in the ordinance. The residents want an amendment to say you cannot have this fee forever. Covell believes the trash fees are a revenue generator.

Angie Lovell, 6418 Newland Road wants to know why the City is using Redflex a company from Australia, why not a company more local.

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Rob stated that we did a lot of research on this company and so did Parma and both cities felt so it was the best company.

Brian Alpert, 6463 Fairweather Drive stated that a company closer to home would sit better with people.

John Slobodian, 9525 Greenbriar would like to thank you Councilman Johnson for all his services.

Sepik adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel-related issues.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 P.M.

RECONVENE AT 9:55 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 P.M.

Jennifer Krepina
Clerk of Council

Robert P. Sepik
Council President