

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

### BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

**April 28, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

Present: Katie Gallagher  
Tony DeMarco  
Ron Van Kirk  
Kathy Pucci  
Mary Balbier  
Kevin Tanski  
Andy Celcherts

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Tanski, second by Celcherts to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 24, 2014. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Approve:* Yes: Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci, Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts. No: None. (**APPROVED**)

President Gallagher hoped everyone had a nice Easter. There's a short Agenda, including a request for a bid and two new Ordinances. Rec. Mgr. McGinty is requesting Council approve to advertise a locker room and bathroom bids for the rink side; Ord. 2014-26 would authorize the purchase of carpet for City Hall reception area and offices in the amount not to exceed \$36,838.55 (through Lowe's as part of the Western State Contracting Alliance National Assn. of State Procurement Officials); Ord. 2014-27, makes minor modification to the Natatorium admission rates for Parma Hts. members (cost for adults changed from \$6 to \$5.50 – a correction of an error).

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

*James Oper* of 4823 Elizabeth Ln., here as a resident and as vice president of the Brooklyn Bd. of Education. Said it's exciting times for the city and school district. Last year's passed bond issue has resulted in what will be a state of the art new building and renovation of existing, encompassing pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade at the 9200 Biddulph Rd. campus. There will also be a renovation of the stadium and press box and Hurricane Alley. They're grateful to the community for believing in them, and the slogan 'Strong schools equal a strong community.' The schools are in the capable hands of Supt. Walker, her administrative team, and teachers. Asking for the support on May 6<sup>th</sup> of the renewal levy (no new taxes), and not to let the community lose the momentum built up over the last year. Asked people to vote yes on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:**

Finance Committee (Councilwoman Pucci): The Comm. met at 6:30 and recommended approving the Agenda items. Received information from Dir. Enovitch regarding health indicators, from the Auditor's office. He'll take a topic at a meeting to discuss and develop financial goals. Councilman Van Kirk shared information on electric rates anticipated to skyrocket next year; the city will have to look at options. The Fire Chief notified we did not get an applied for grant that would have assisted with staffing at the Fire Station. We're still waiting on the grant for turnout gear. There was a discussion about staffing at the Sport Court and options and costs.

Economic Develop. Committee (Councilwoman Pucci): The Comm. met April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and discussed: update on residential property on Memphis; update on residential property on Idlewood (we have the title now and working with the County Landbank). The Landbank advised if the property is turned over to them, after they rehab the property, they'll first try to find a qualified veteran through their Homefront Program (to assist a veteran in purchasing a home). If no qualified veteran interested, they'll try to sell it to a

non-veteran. As this would be the first property in our City Landbank we will dispose of, Dir. Migliorino will find out the County Landbank's timeline for this project, as we don't want this to go on a backburner, the property is an eyesore. Dir. Enovitch will check with the Auditor for their requirements; and Dir. Claussen will check into the legal paperwork. There was also discussion on another company interested in a Job Retention Creation Grant. The amount they're requesting is larger relative to the return on our investment to what we collect in withholding taxes, so Dir. Migliorino will see if they will consider a longer period of job retention commitment in Brooklyn. Because of issues at Regional Income Tax, we haven't verified the withholding tax information for Loving Cup Kids Academy's grant authorization; there also has to be evidence of the investment, so it was deferred. When the focus groups are finished, she and Dir. Migliorino will finalize a template for the agreements.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): The Board met April 21<sup>st</sup>. Summer learn to skate registration is May 1-June 9; summer learn to swim registration is May 17-June 14; Spring Swizzle skating exhibition is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. (free and open to public). The Rec Dept. will take the ice down June 2<sup>nd</sup>, new ice laid, and equipment checked. The next Board meeting is Mon., May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Mayor's Court.

School Board (Councilman Celcherts): The Bd. of Education met April 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a student achievement presentation for Middle School students on using Excel (in cooperation with Key Bank); brief overview of the trip to China and their sister school. Honor and Merit Roll students were mentioned. The stadium is currently being worked on, with excavation of the football field for the placement of artificial turf. The walking track is unavailable. Pictures of the construction process are on the School's website. Remember the levy on May 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a pep rally at this moment going on at the High School. May 10<sup>th</sup> the schools celebrate National Bike Month with a Bike Rodeo and Touch a Truck, organized from the schools, Police Dept., City Council, ODOT, Bd. of Health and Ridge Park Square. There might even be a Lifelight landing. For info call Ms. Toerek at 216-485-8176. For more information on the Bike Rodeo see [www.getmovingbrooklyn.org](http://www.getmovingbrooklyn.org). The next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>, open to the public.

Zoning Bd. of Appeals (Comm. Fitzgerald): The Bd. met April 17<sup>th</sup> and denied the variance request for a new freestanding sign at 4295 Tiedeman (Sunoco gas station.)

Planning Commission (Katie Gallagher): The Comm. meets May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room to hear: approved a request from Be Next Awnings and Graphics Inc. to place a new illuminated pole signage and canopy signage located at 4295 Tiedeman for business identification of Santmyer Oil Co.; a request from Clinton Rd. Partnership for site plan approval of 22,016 sq. ft. addition to Arrow Int., 9900 Clinton; a request from Perspective Architecture for similar use for skilled nursing and assisted living facility at 4800 Idlewood; a request from Perspective Architecture for a lot split and lot consolidation for same location; a request from Perspective Architecture for site plan and approval for new 104,000 skilled nursing and assisted living facility for same location.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

**Tony DeMarco:** No report.

**Ron Van Kirk:** At the Safety Comm. mtg. a few weeks ago there was discussion on safety concerns in the Idlewood/Southwood area. Thanked the Police Chief for being part of it, and meeting with Dorian (?) from OptiTraffic and discussing their assistance provided for traffic enforcement. The Chief at this time doesn't feel the city should partner with them to install any type of mobile camera in the area. Though he disagrees with the Chief's decision, he respects his opinion as the chief enforcer of the city, and will go along with his plan to continue using officers and cruisers to monitor the traffic as opposed to automated enforcement. The Chief said he would leave the door open to a possible future partnering with someone for different locations in the city. He (Councilman Van Kirk) strongly feels the continued increase in traffic in the neighborhood will make safety more of an issue, and the Chief is also aware of the need in enforcement. If anyone has concerns on this, especially with increased traffic due to Ridge construction, call him at 216-965-5737. There will be another Safety Comm. meeting in the next few weeks to discuss personnel for the Fire Dept. and some vehicles requested by the Fire Chief. Don't forget the primary election on May 5<sup>th</sup>, with many candidates and several issues for consideration. His recommendation is that residents take time to review each issue before voting.

**Kathy Pucci:** Said Mrs. Rose Poporad, longtime resident, passed away, and she gave condolences to the Poporad and Wilhelm families. As mentioned, for Safe Routes to School, the upcoming Bike Rodeo, where bikes can be registered if needed. Thanked Ridge Park Square for providing the space. Reminded of the Heroin in the Suburbs program on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Brooklyn Library at 7 p.m. Encourages the community to attend, as the epidemic has reached a crisis level in the entire region, and everyone should understand the problem and how to help. There is a drug drop off box in the Police lobby, for old drugs to be placed. Was a moderator for a resident focus group last week, and thanked those who participated; further encouraged other residents who receive a letter of invitation to a focus group to please attend for feedback. If you can't attend the meeting invited to, contact them to be rescheduled on another date. She's had complaints the last few weeks on road conditions and traffic. She asked Dir. Verba to give in his report an overview. This winter was one of the roughest on the streets in this whole area. There is a process to go through, and the engineer looks at the streets again in the spring and reassesses them with a rating system. This year's project is set for the year, though there is an in-house crew that is used effectively. If something's bad, report it, but patience is appreciated. Please continue to patronize Ridge Park Square, as business has dropped due to the construction, it's important as residents to do this. She's had complaints about the Tiedeman Rd. construction from residents trying to use it as an alternate to the Ridge Rd. construction; most are commenting on both being done at the same time. That project was supposed to be completed last fall; but ODOT came to us with the safety hazards of backing up traffic on the highway, and they had quick funds available to address it, but only if they could do it quickly. It was not planned like this, it's just how it worked out, and was beyond the City's control. They appear to be moving quickly, so hopefully they'll be out of there soon. May 6<sup>th</sup> is the election, if you haven't already voted remember to vote, and support the renewal levy for the schools.

**Mary Albier:** May 6<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Many primaries and issues are up for votes. We've all received mailings and calls for candidates; she's learned all she can about each before voting. She urges everyone to do the same. She and her husband voted by mail. She personally always supports the school levy, by her vote and by contributions and help. Regardless on anyone's position on candidates or issues, vote, for what is best for you and your community. Welcomed Ashley Furniture to Ridge Park Square. It's important to support and get to these businesses as much as possible, it means a lot to them. Brooklyn Historical Society has a meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> about the history of antique buttons, with items for sale and a quilt raffle.

**Kevin Tanski:** The Ridge Rd. construction is producing excessive dust. He's spoken to the project manager to water down the dirt. Told Dir. Verba he will monitor it daily; if the dust gets too excessive he will contact him. He's had numerous complaints on this. He hopes that during the school construction the School Board makes sure that same thing is monitored so it doesn't get out of control in that mostly residential area.

**Andy Celcherts:** As mentioned, the school levy is up for vote on May 6<sup>th</sup>; he is in favor of it. There is also State Issue 1 (renew a public works bond mechanism, of which Brooklyn has benefitted from) and County Issue 7 (for excise/sin tax for infrastructure on the three public stadiums), both of which he is in favor of. Informed that on city streets, in 2013 5,020 lineal feet were paved; this year it's projected to be an improvement of 8,140 feet to be paved. The bid award should be on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This Thursday some Brooklyn firefighters will participate in "Raise the Ladder" event with proceeds to make a Wish; held at Rivals in Middleburg Hts. Last week he and Councilman Tanski met with a Johnson Controls rep. to look into possible energy savings at city buildings. One suggestion was looking into pre-heating water at the pool with solar panels; they are looking into grants for this. There were also lighting suggestions. Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> the Senior Center holds a spring pancake breakfast, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$4 advanced tickets, call 216-635-4222. Dir. Verba has a lot on his plate, and other than snow plowing, safe roads, and many things, he's also responsible for the Rec Center and the parks. At the last Rec Bd. meeting vandalism in the both pavilions was mentioned; so for Dir. Verba to worry about the items he is, then there are persons breaking or ripping from ceilings fixtures and conduit that were replaced for the same reason last year. It's very sad, and we're spending time and money trying to keep it up.

**Katie Gallagher:** Thanked Supt. Walker for inviting her on the Let's Talk Brooklyn TV program. Repeated the Primary Election is next week and there are several tax issues. Council was asked publicly to support Issue 1, Issue 2 and Issue 7; though the public body decided not to vote on resolutions relating to those issues. She doesn't believe the Council should take a public stand (as a public body) concerning financial issues when they have no input on the financial decision making; but a Councilperson can give their personal

opinion on any issue. She has been asked by many her personal decision on the School's renewal levy and had no problem sharing. She agrees the city should have a strong school, to attract young professionals and maintain property values. She wants to see the school succeed. She agrees the school and city need to work together more. We provide police for the school every day, and pay the school guard costs each year; there are joint partnerships for community and safety events, and recreation services. She and Supt. Walker have made an effort to open communications between Council and the School Bd. more, resulting in bringing back the School Bd. liaison (which Councilman Celcherts is doing great at). Either Treasurer Hopkins or Supt. Walker are at each Council meeting, along with a School Bd. member. The Mayor works closely on the superintendent on city matters affecting the schools. As a resident, after weighing pros and cons of the issues, she voted in favor of Issue 2 (school levy), Issue 1 (State Cap. Imp. Fund), and Issue 7 ('sin tax').

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Balbier:** The route for the Memorial Day parade has changed due to Ridge Rd. construction as follows: 11 a.m. form at the high school Southwood parking lot, proceed Southwood to Biddulph, Biddulph to Rodoan, Rodoan to Memphis, Memphis to the park. Brooklyn was again named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation; on Friday he'll be giving out trees to the third grade students from Brookridge, Heritage Christian and St. Thomas More schools. Cleveland Water will have plant tours on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Baldwin Water Works (11216 Stokes Blvd.) or the Crown Water Works (955 Clague Rd); call 216-664-2444 ext 5717 to schedule the tour. He toured the Sewer Dept. and thinks the Water Dept. will be just as interesting. Spoke about RITA (Regional Income Tax): 25,170 forms were filed electronically in the 24 hour period (April 15), 3,500 phone calls, and 1,300 in-person taxpayers; they had to extend the date from April 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> (without penalty) to deal with the volume. There will be a ribbon cutting on May 1<sup>st</sup> for Gold's Gym, and on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Ashley Furniture.

### **DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Rec. Mgr. McGinty: Camp Brooklyn registration begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Camp is going back to Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m., running June 16<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>; pricing is \$265 for resident, \$335 for St. Thomas More, Heritage Christian, Parma Hts., and corporate. As mentioned the Memorial Day parade route is changing. Any person or organization interested in participating should contact Marie Torino at 216-635-4283. Summer Recreation jobs: Lifeguards, at least 16 years old, certified needed – applications are on line or at Rec Center. For certification, there will be a lifeguarding class late spring/early summer, for questions or to get on class list call 216-351-5334.

Finance Dir. Enovitch: General Fund revenues year to date are \$5,863,188.27; expenses are \$5,118,676.97. Unencumbered Gen. Fund balance is \$8,192,207.21; total cash balance is \$22,334,816.44.

Service Dir. Verba: Due to inclement weather forecast for Tues. and Wed., the concrete pour for the curb lane from School Dr. to Ira has been postponed to Thurs., May 1 at 3 a.m. (weather permitting); the middle lane would be poured May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 a.m. (also weather permitting). Then drive aprons and sidestreets will be prepped on Monday. The Vac-All should arrive April 30<sup>th</sup>, and on the streets the end of next week. There were several calls questioning which streets get reconstructed for the year. The City Engineer evaluates each street and rates them on a 1-5 scale (1=critical, 5=excellent). After an amount to spend on street repairs is determined the streets with the lowest rating and chosen for the budgeting. This year there are 11 streets with a "2" rating, and of those we will repair five for the 2014 street repair program. The Public Works Committee will meet soon to discuss the 2015 program once the Engineer gets the ratings to us. This past Friday the city had the most special pickups in recent history – over 185. Of the 185, only 129 were called in for pickup. He reminds that if the item doesn't fit your container, you must arrange for a pickup at 216-635-4232 by noon on Friday. Calls after that will not be guaranteed for a pickup.

Police Chief Mielke: Reiterated on the drug drop off box, in the lobby, available 24 hours a day (no liquids accepted). Idlewood traffic is increasing due to the Ridge Rd. construction, and patrols and special attention have been increased, and aggressively citing, to keep the neighborhoods safe. The Civil Service Comm. will be holding an Entry Level Police Officer test on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Requirements include: age 21-41 years; high

school diploma/GED; \$30 fee; US citizen. More details are on the city's website, including the announcement and application. Applications are available Mon-Fri at City Hall 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**REQUEST:**

Request to advertise for bids for the John M. Coyne Recreation Center locker rooms E & F renovations, with shower and restroom addition. **MOTION** by Pucci second by Tanski to advertise for bids. **VOTE RESULTED: Advertise for bids:** Yes: Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci, Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts. No: None. **(AUTHORIZED)**

**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE 2014-26**, Authorizing the purchase of installed carpet for the City Hall reception area and offices from Lowes through the WSEA NASCO Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$36,838.55. **(FIRST READING)**

**ORDINANCE 2014-27**, Amending Section 1A of Ord. 2011-15, Establishing Parma Hts. Community Partner rates at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center and Natatorium, to reflect a rate correction. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED: Suspend the Rules:** Yes: Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci, Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts. No: None. **Adopt:** Yes: Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci, Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Councilman Tanski asked the Chief, since we've had our cameras fixed in the park and pavilion area, and there has been vandalism, if the cameras are picking up in those areas? The Chief responded about the monitoring of the area.

Mayor Balbier reminded that we have a box at the reception lobby at City Hall that accepts old American Flags for proper disposal.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED: Adjourn:** Yes: Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci, Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts. No: None. **(ADJOURNED)**

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Asst. Clerk of Council

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President of Council