

CITY OF BROOKLYN



January-February 2016

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the **City of Brooklyn, Ohio** e-newsletter.

The City of Brooklyn is a strong and vibrant community located centrally in the heart of Cuyahoga County. Brooklyn is the perfect place to live, work and play. Generations of families, businesses and workers have been proud to call Brooklyn home and we think you will too. Come see for yourself all that Brooklyn has to offer.



I am truly honored to begin my service as the Mayor in Brooklyn. I have set many goals for the city but they can be boiled down to two simple principals: (1) We will improve delivery of services to our residents and businesses and (2) we will make communication a priority.

In the next four years, you will see our city decrease the cost of operations through efficiency. As a direct result, our city will be greatly improve the way we do business.

And as I said, communication will also be a priority. City Hall will have an open door policy for businesses and city employees will be encouraged to share their great ideas of how to improve the city. I started this open communication effort last month by visiting with representatives from local businesses here in Brooklyn. I will continue this effort throughout the years to come. The city's business community is the backbone of our city. Just as the businesses are the backbone, the residents are the heart. For residents, I am available if you want to reach out. I will also set aside times each month, outside of normal business hours so residents can ask questions, express concerns, or just stop by to say hi.

I am looking forward to working with each of you to make positive changes in Brooklyn in these next four years.

I will be presenting the State of the City at the Brooklyn Democratic Club on Monday, February 15th at 7:00pm in the Center located at 7727 Memphis Avenue. This event is open to the public. I will also be giving the presentation at a Commerce Luncheon on Thursday, February 18th at Noon hosted by the Westbrook Village Apartments.

TOPICS:

[Mayor's Message](#)

[News, Events, Highlights](#)

Mayor

Katherine A. Gallagher

Council

Kathleen M. Pucci
Antony E. DeMarco
Kevin Tanski
Ron Van Kirk
Mary L. Balbier
Barbara A. Paulitzky
Deborah G. Tomusko

News, Events, Highlights

Congratulations to all the newly elected officials in Brooklyn

There was a swearing-in ceremony on January 1st, 2016 for the Mayor Katherine Gallagher; City Council members Barbara Paulitzky and School Board members Bonnie Bartczak and Bob Hennings.



Katie Gallagher is sworn in as Mayor of Brooklyn by Judge David Matia

Best Wishes for a wonderful retirement

Mayor Balbier was honored at the December 28, 2015 city council meeting by Representatives Mike Skindell and with family, friends and council members. Best Wishes to former Mayor Balbier on his retirement from the City years of service.

Congratulations and Best Wishes also to Magistrate Ronald Balbier; Senior Center Coordinator Rita Enovitch and Director Fran Migliorino on their respective retirements. Thank you for all your dedicated service to our commur



Business Briefs

Keystone Tailored Manufacturing

The City of Brooklyn presented owner Ken Ragland with a check for \$75,000 as part of a job creation and reten Brooklyn. Keystone Tailored hired back all of the Hugo Boss employees and increased their workforce by 12 en the process of hiring 30 more employees starting this month. Mr. Ragland said he hopes to have Keystone have t running by March 2016. Additionally, Keystone is also working on some exciting new agreements including being the suits worn by all NFL Hall of Fame Inductees.



Mayor Katherine A. Gallagher
and Interim Council President
Ron Van Kirk with Ken
Ragland of Keystone Tailored

CENVEO



Mayor Gallagher and Cenvo
GM Bill Howat

The City of Brooklyn presented General Manager Bill Howat a check for \$15,000 as part of business development more than \$200,000 in electrical upgrades to their facility as result of Brooklyn offering to help offset some of the

A big Thank You to...

- **Ferrous Metal Processing** – custom made and donated a Forcible Entry Door to the fire department for
- **Cleveland Baptist Church** – provided a Christmas luncheon to the city employees during the holidays. appreciated.

Other Business News

- **Accel Performance** (f.k.a. Mr. Gasket) closed their doors in Brooklyn on 12/20/15. They had about 64
- **The Plain Dealer** - is now publishing The Akron Beacon Journal.
- **Arrow International** - Plans to move 18 software specialists from their Cleveland office to their Brooklyn also working on a new visitor center.
- **Key Bank** - acquired First Niagara recently.

Welcome to the Brooklyn Administrative Team!



Andi Udris

Economic Development Director

On January 13, 2016, Mayor Katherine A. Gallagher appointed of **Mr. Andi Udris** as the City of Brooklyn's new Director. Mr. Udris will replace Mrs. Fran Migliorino who retired.

Mr. Udris comes to the City of Brooklyn with over 40 years of economic development experience. Mr. Udris' previous experience includes: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C.; City of Cleveland Economic Development Assistant Director and Director; Grubbs and Ellis Real Estate, Development and Investment Specialist; APCOA, Urban Properties; City of Cincinnati, Director of Economic Development; Economic Development Corporation and CEO; Union Station Kansas City, Inc., President and CEO; and Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Director.

Mr. Udris is currently a Lecturer at Cleveland State University, Maxine Levine College of Urban Affairs. He is also a member of the Cincinnati Restaurant Group, Inc. serving as managing Member for Brauhaus Cleveland LLC, owners of 11 restaurant and brewpub.

Mayor Gallagher said, "The City of Brooklyn is very fortunate Mr. Udris has chosen to bring his wealth of experience to our administrative team. I look forward working with him to create and execute an Economic Development Plan that will secure our financial future."



Kevin M. Butler

Law Director

On January 27, 2016, Mayor Katherine A. Gallagher announced the appointment of Mr. Kevin M. Butler as the new Law Director.

As part of her comprehensive hiring process, Mayor Gallagher formed a selection committee to help to vet and hire the new Law Director. The committee included the City of Parma's longtime Law Director Mr. Timothy G. Dobeck and Mr. Thomas A. Keller, former Law Director in the City of North Royalton and interim Law Director in Brooklyn since early November.

Mr. Butler comes to the City of Brooklyn with extensive municipal law experience as he currently holds the position of Law Director in the City of Lakewood, where he has been employed since 2011. Mr. Butler also serves as the President of the Northeast Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association and in 2015, was awarded by Crain's Cleveland Business as Government Sector In-House Counsel of the Year.

Mr. Butler's past work has included being a Senior Writer at Squire, Sanders and Dempsey L.L.P. Cleveland (2002-2004); an attorney with the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey L.L.P. Cleveland (2004-2008); and a City Council member in the City of Lakewood from 2005-2011.

Mayor Gallagher said, "I was thrilled with the quality applicants for this position and that so many attorneys wanted to be part of what we are building here in the City of Brooklyn. Our community will benefit from Mr. Butler's wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of city government."

What is on your mind?

Have a question or would like to sit down and share your ideas and concerns Mayor Gallagher?

Feel free to stop in to City Hall on Tuesday, February 23 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Mayor will be IN! Call 216-631-1100 or email jludwig@brooklynohio.gov if you want to make an appointment!

The Heart of Brooklyn

Nominate a City of Brooklyn Citizen and/or Business for the work that they do! Tell us why a certain [citizen](#) deserves recognition. Forms are available at brooklynohio.gov/en-us/mayors-office.aspx or by clicking here. Printed forms are available at the City Hall and the Senior-Community Center. There will be one (1) citizen winner chosen and one (1) business winner. Winners will be recognized at the June 13th City Council meeting by Mayor Gallagher. Deadline for nominations is a semi-annual contest. There will be another opportunity to submit nominations in July for recognition in December.

Brooklyn City Calendar 2017 Photo Contest

The City will be seeking resident involvement in its 2017 calendar that is mailed to all the residences in Brooklyn. Participating in the contest has the following rules: Brooklyn resident (any age); Limit to one photo submitted per person; please include name, address and contact phone number; and identify the location of the photo.

- Photo must be taken in the City of Brooklyn within the last few years. Seasonably appropriate photos will be accepted.
- Resident must own the photo, and be able to submit it electronically to jludwig@brooklynohio.gov. (If you do not have a computer, please bring your camera or memory card to City Hall for assistance.)
- Amateur photographers only, no professional photographer.
- Photo cannot be noticeably photo-shopped, they will be judged accordingly.
- No faces in photo.
- Deadline is November 1, 2016 (no exception) •
- Submitted photos become the property of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio.

A total of 13 photos will be chosen from those submitted. One will be chosen for the cover (cover will be in full color) and 12 will be chosen for the calendar. Each monthly page (each page will be shown as a black/white/gray-scaled photo, regardless if submitted as color).

City Council Updates

Welcome Aboard



Deborah Tomusko



Newly Elected Council Member
Barbara Paulitzky

Congratulations to Deborah G. Tomusko who was voted in by the current city council, to fill a vacant council seat on February 18, 2016.

Thank you for your service.

A big thank you to former council member Andy Celcherts for your hard work for the past two years.

December 14, 2015

The 2015 House Decorating Contest Winners were recognized.

1st Place - 6204 Delora Avenue

2nd Place - 4572 Rodoan Road

3rd Place - 9303 Orchard Avenue

Honorable mention - 8914 Morton Avenue

- Approved the request for bids for the 2016 Street Program. See Service Department Section for specific
- Approved a 12 month extension for HVAC full maintenance program with K Company at the Recreation \$26,868.
- Approved a change order for the landfill in the amount of \$11,480. This includes an additional 2,870 line
- Approved a request to allow the County Fiscal Officer to advance taxes from the proceeds of the 2015 to Revised Code 321.34.
- Accepted the rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and Fiscal Officer. The 5.9 mills is the same as previous years (3.9 of inside millage divided between the General and Fire Pension; and 2.0 of outside millage divided between the General Fund Bond Retirement; Police Street Lighting). The property valuation in the City of Brooklyn dropped \$600,000 from last year. The city collected \$1,721,678 in collections this year which equates to less than 7% of your total property bills.
- Approved the purchase of a Honda Rancher 420E ATV and accessories for the Brooklyn Recreation Department
- Authorized the City of Brooklyn to enter a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation Officer Agreement relating to the right turn lane off of Tiedeman Road onto I-480. This is a \$75,000 grant.
- Authorized the City of Brooklyn to enter an agreement with the County relating to the dedicated right hand turn lane on Tiedeman Road on I-480. The Department of Public Works gave the City \$220,000 a grant to help offset project.
- Authorized an agreement with Clemans, Nelson and Associates to conduct labor negotiations on behalf of the City. Total initial retainer is \$15,000.
- Authorized transfers and advances for 2015. \$605,470 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund; \$291,819.54 from the General Fund to the Economic Development Fund; and \$291,819.54 from the General Fund to the Bond

December 28, 2015

- Approved a change order for the landfill.
- Passed the Amended Annual Appropriations. The total amount was \$27,688,029.08 which was about 5% of the total budget. Please note this was higher than in past years because of the landfill closure costs.
- Passed the Temporary Annual Appropriations. The total amount appropriated for 2016 is \$22,721,795.

January 4, 2016 (Organizational Meeting)

- No Council President was picked. Ron Van Kirk will continue as the Interim Council President.
- [Click here](#) for 2016 City Council contact information and council committees.

January 11, 2016

- Confirmations: Re-appointment of Jim Oper on the Planning Commission; Removal of Scott Claussen as the Fire Chief
- Authorized the Fire Chief to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$125,000 for cameras, automatic external defibrillators, a lifepak, 15 cardiac monitors/defibrillators/patient care monitors. The city's portion would be \$6,250.
- Held in Abeyance the request to purchase 2017 Freightliner M2 Mini-Max One-Armed Garbage Truck for the Department from Cleveland Communications, Inc. for a total of \$203,743 through the State of Ohio Government Price Index. This is 14 cubic square yards and would function in small streets in Brooklyn and act as a backup one-armed truck.
- Passed an ordinance authorizing the purchase of 35 new radios and the upgrade of 15 radios for the Service Department from Cleveland Communications, Inc. for a total of \$90,646 through State of Ohio Government Price Index.

January 18, 2016 (Special Meeting)

- Appointed Debbie Tomusko to fill the vacancy of Mayor Katherine Gallagher.

January 25, 2016

- Mayor's Proclamation (Sgt. Cindy Eschweiler and Det. Joe Tenhunfeld)
- Confirmed the Appointment of Ryan Kelber on the Recreation Board and Michelle Rivera to the Civil Service Commission
- Held in Abeyance - Establishing the full-time position of Economic Development Director with the City of Brooklyn
- Authorized the Mayor of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio to enter into a Stormwater Management Program with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for implementation of its Regional Stormwater Management Program
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC), Inc. for other services for 2016 for the Sanitary Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$44,350. These are non-emergency services as part of the post-closure process.
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC), Inc. for assistance relating to the Sanitary Landfill for the estimated cost of \$16,267. This is specifically for the design of the pond.
- Authorized the emergency repairs and parts for the Compost Pond Pumping/Lift Station at the Sanitary Landfill for an amount of \$42,130.48 as specified in their proposal.
- Executive Session (matters of personnel relating to Law Director interview)
- Council Confirmation of Law Director (confirmed appointment of Kevin Butler)



Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to 2,556 emergency calls in 2015. This is a 9% increase over 2014 responses. The number of residents of Brooklyn belonging to the regional dispatch center with Parma and Parma Heights continue to increase. The fire department will continue to increase their community involvement this year.



Police Department



Sgt. Cindy Eschweiler received a Mayor's Proclamation at the January 25 Council meeting

Chief Scott Mielke presented Det. Sgt. Joe Tenhunfeld a Letter of Commendation for his work and recovery of t Missouri. Sgt. Cindy Eschweiler also received a Letter of Commendation from Chief Mielke for her leadership an armed and barricaded suspect incident on Archmere Avenue on January 2nd 2016.

The Police Dept. has purchased new cruiser dashboard cameras and body cameras. The cameras are being imple have begun training.



Building Department

Why Should I Get A Permit?

If the overall safety and assurance that comes with your project being inspected by certified inspectors doesn't c
YOU COULD SAVE MONEY?

Permit fees are reasonable, but they will be doubled if work starts without one. Much can be saved by not havin
again, because it wasn't right the first time. It's so easy for you or your contractor to call the inspector for advice
made.

Insurers are not likely to pay for damages that occur by unapproved work. Disclosure of improvements is require
of your home. Lenders have been known not to finance without proof of permits and inspections.

Many projects will add property value, but only with documentation of permits and final inspections. Don't we w
rise? Finishing a basement or attic, new deck or porch, wood burner or fireplace, additional bath, and new centra
eligible for a 5 year, 100% tax abatement.

The Building Department strives to make the approval and inspection process as easy as possible. See our websit
and applications. Permits must be posted on the front of your home. Do not allow a contractor to start work wit
call us at 216-635-4203 with any questions.



Service Department

The week of February 15, in observance of President's Day, waste collection will be one day late. Please note the special pick-ups when there is a short week because of a holiday.

The 2016 Street Repair Program

The following streets are scheduled to be repaired in 2016:

- BROOKHIGH
- APPLE CREEK
- HEATHER LN.
- IRA (W)
- MELODY LN.
- PEPPER RIDGE DR.
- DELORA
- VANDALIA
- SAYBROOK
- SUNNY LN.
- AUTUMN LN. (OFF OF BIDDULPH)
- W. 62ND ST.
- MEMPHIS AVENUE



Recreation Department

- Learn to Swim and Swim team Registration will start February 15th. Cost: Resident L-T-S \$50.00, Swim the week of March 7th.
- Learn to Skate registration is being taken at this time. Cost: \$35.00 + *\$12.00 USFS fee (one time charge 2016) classes start in March.
- Youth soccer registration for the U3 through the U9 will start February 8th. Cost: Residents \$60.00
- Youth baseball registration will start March 1st. Cost: Residents \$55.00 (4 and up), 3 year old t-ball \$50.00

Baron Cup and Sectional and District hockey games will be taking place February 8th through March 5th. Please see the website for more sessions.

Park permit information: reservations may be made by calling 216-351-5334 Monday through Friday.

Need a Job? Spring and Summer job help: we will be accepting job applications for soccer, baseball, day camp, attendants, lifeguards and water safety instructors. Please check the city website and bulletin boards for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt for residents 6 and under will be held at the Brooklyn Senior Center on Saturday, March 19th. The hunt will start promptly at 11 am.

Senior Center

[Click here](#) for the January-February Senior Chit-Chat.

There will be a **Coffee with the Mayor** on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:00am.

Senior Center will hold a **Valentine's Dance/Luncheon** on Thurs Feb 11, 2016 Lunch starts at 11:30 and Danci by Mike Jacobs.

Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance at the Senior Center.

AARP is doing free **income tax preparation** at the Senior Center – Starts Feb 1st and runs every Mon and Wed 10:00am to 12:30 pm.

Note: we are closed on Presidents Day Feb 15th – Please Call the Senior Center for appointment at (216) 635-

Senior Center will hold a **St. Patrick's Dance/Luncheon** on Thurs March 17, 2016 Lunch starts at 11:30 and d Music by Wayne Tomsic.

Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance at the Senior Center.



January was School Board Recognition Month

Thank you to the Brooklyn School Board Members – President Rocky Neale, Vice-President Bonnie Bartczak a Jim Oper and Bob Hennings. Thank you for your dedication to our students and community!



Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce News

[Click here](#) for their newsletter. Be sure to check out the annual Taste of Brooklyn on Saturday, February 27 from Information is in their newsletter.



