

Brooklyn City Council
January 14, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Kevin Tanski, Barb Paulitzky, Ron Van Kirk, Meg Ryan Shockey, Andy Celcherts, Kathy Pucci, Mary Albier

ABSENT: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening prayer was offered by Councilwoman Kathy Pucci.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2018. **MOTION** by Celcherts, second by Van Kirk to approve. **VOTE: To approve:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. Abstain: Albier. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

SPEAKER:

Rick Novickis, Director of Environmental Health at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, spoke relating to the proposed Tobacco21 Ord. #2018-94. He explained that it proposes to move the age of purchasing tobacco and tobacco products from age 18 to age 21. Dir. Butler and he discussed possible changes to the proposed legislation.

President Van Kirk updated on Council's Jan. 7th Organizational mtg. with the following:

He thanked Council for electing him President.

Andy Celcherts was elected President Pro-Tem.

Recreation Bd. Rep: Kevin Tanski

Domestic Abuse Comm. Rep: Meg Ryan Shockey

Planning Comm. Rep: Ron Van Kirk

Economic Development Comm. Rep: Andy Celcherts

Finance Committee: Councilmembers Paulitzky, Pucci, Van Kirk

Public Works Committee: Councilmembers Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski

Public Safety & Environmental Committee: Councilmembers Albier, Paulitzky, Van Kirk

Volunteer Fire Dependents Board: Councilmembers Albier, Pucci

Fair Housing Rep.: Councilwoman Ryan Shockey

Legislative Update: Councilwoman Albier

Sustainability Committee: Councilman Tanski

School Board Liaison: Councilwoman Ryan Shockey

He said Council Rule changes were discussed for 2019 with a proposed ordinance for the next Council mtg.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Rob Slattery of 6600 Bucyrus said at the last mtg. someone commented and put efforts of Brooklyn Acres down. He gave information on what the Acres does and process for residing there. He cited property taxes, and some things they don't get that residents get. He spoke of the speaker (an employee speaking as a resident) and comments he felt were false, and also it was information obtained during work hours. He spoke of further issues he had with the speaker, and feeling there are violations of the City's Policy Manual, and a subsequent Police report against him. He's waiting for public records information and expressed concern of his and their Board, and asked for an investigation of the employee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): Learn to Swim registrations starts Feb. 11th. Private lessons also available. Soccer registration starts Feb. 1st. Ice skating class registration is currently going on. More information at 216-351-2133 or www.activityreg.com. The next Rec. Bd. mtg. is Jan. 27th at 7 p.m. in the Rec Center mtg. room.

Finance Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): The Committee met at 6:30 and discussed: acceptance of grant for the Rec Center for playground structures at the park (for \$41,283.76 grant – city cost \$103,000); acceptance of \$2,000 NOPEC sponsorship grant to be used for the Fall Fest; Ord. 2018-92, Establishing Brooklyn Mutual Homes, Inc. (Community Partner) rates for membership and programs at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center (would provide to Cleveland residents of Brooklyn Acres community partner rates like Parma, Parma Hts., Linndale); Ord. 2018-93, same ordinance which adds some things and includes the Senior Center, (allows Cleveland residents at Brooklyn Acres to pay resident rates at Rec Center/Natatorium and for member swipe cards at the Senior Center); Ord. 2019-1, Amends Ord. 2018-55, establishing Linndale Community Partner rates at the Recreation Center (this adds employees of Linndale to receive the rates, about 20 persons); spoke about moving of dirt mound off Hurricane Alley; the Mayor informed Keystone will close on Tiedeman (losing 140 jobs), but another company purchased property next to it and we look for new businesses to come in; and we learned that Victory Capital will be moving their headquarters out of Brooklyn to San Antonio, which is unfortunate because we tried with Issue 3 to give them the facility they were looking for.

School Board Liaison (Councilwoman Ryan Shockey): Reported using Councilwoman Paulitzky's notes from attending. Helmets donated to football team. Basketball shooting machine purchased by Athletic Boosters. Boys soccer had GPA of 3.617. Girls volleyball came in 2nd place. New signs for gym and parking lot being worked on. 16 Brooklyn hockey team members finished 1st place. Boosters' fundraiser, Night at the Races, is Feb. 16th at 6 p.m. at UAW Hall. Dr. Gleichauf reported High School midterm exams were coming up. Asst. Supt. reported work on math and literacy restructuring. The concert was great, school spirit is up, and bullying is down. Polaris tours will be soon, with areas completed. Councilwoman Paulitzky added Polaris Open House is Jan. 17th from 6-8, all are welcome.

Public Safety & Environmental Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): The Comm. met in Dec. regarding Ord. 2018-88, to update our Code regarding animals. Changes were discussed, and some changes made, with Dir. Butler and Miranda Braude, resulting in the current Ord. tonight. –There was going to be a meeting after tonight's Council mtg. to discuss Tobacco21, but Mr. Novickis was available and addressed it at the beginning of Council. If necessary, a mtg. will be set up at a later date.

Board of Zoning Appeals (Commissioner Kulcsar): The Board met Dec. 20th and approved a request from R.Yankovitz for a 289 sq. ft. variance to reconstruct an 889 sq. ft. detached garage at 4627 Winter Ln. The mtg. Scheduled for Jan. 17th is cancelled due to no applications.

Economic Development Committee (Councilman Celcherts): As mentioned, Keystone is leaving. In 2014 the city provided a Job Retention and Creation tax credit for \$150,000 – the city will work on trying to obtain a portion or all of it due to the closure. The CIC in a mtg. earlier today agreed to a sale price of \$49,265/acre or \$335,000 for 7.5 acres next to JD Norman property, owner Premier Partner LLC, to provide ample parking in the vacant buildings. It should be a significant tax increase. The wetlands will remain a wetlands.

Planning Commission (Councilman Van Kirk): The Commission will meet Jan. 17th at 6 p.m. to hear a request from: Epic Sign and Graphic for LED message board on existing freestanding business identification sign for Valley College at 8720 Brookpark Rd.

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) (Councilwoman Pucci): Added to Councilman Celchert's summary that the two parcels owned by CIC were the hopeful IKEA areas. The only developable area is a parking area by/used by Keystone. Due to the parking problem by Keystone the developer needs parking (and the city was leasing the lot out). After appraising the property they agreed to the purchase price of \$335,000.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Kevin Tanski: Hoped all enjoyed holidays. Welcomed Councilman Van Kirk as Council President and all Councilmembers to respective committees. –Offered condolences to longtime resident Connie Chula on the passing of husband Ray, a good friend of his.

Barb Paulitzky: Hope everyone had a happy Christmas season, wished happy and productive New Year. –Received an email from the Center for Community Solutions, and read an overview of community organizations connecting low income families to public benefits. It's often difficult to navigate the rules and paperwork at County Job and Family Services offices – and leaves family to help them through it. The report shows how changes impact community assisters and tools that are needed to better support. She personally learned how long and hard it is, and understands why community assisters are needed for those who don't understand or have family to advocate for them. She will contact new State Reps to see if they're working on solutions. Pray for those who need public assistance.

Meg Ryan Shockey: Hope all had a happy New Year. She's been on Council for one year, and enjoys it and looks forward to her second year. –Reminds residents struggling financially there are resources to help with utilities. There is Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Winter Crisis Program, and Percentage of Payment Plan (PIPP), with eligibility guidelines. More information at www.cuyahogacounty.us or 216-518-4014. –Reminds pet owners to be aware of how long pets are outdoors as temperate drop. –The Domestic Abuse Comm. will meet Jan., 23rd at 6 p.m., to discuss news update, commission updates, and other items.

Andy Celcherts: The hockey team is 9-1. Thursday they play at the Rec Center. They are first in the Blue South Division. –Night at the Races is Feb. 16th at the UAW Hall on Chevy Blvd., \$25 pre-sale tickets. Contact Kelly Supek at dolphyl2939@att.net. –Congratulations to Ron Block at the Brooklyn Library, named a judge for the James Beard cookbook awards competition.

Kathy Pucci: Wished everyone a happy New Year. –Several residents passed away and she offers condolences to their families: Jim Grabbe, Aldo Zappa, Jeannette Wheeler. –Regarding pray at the beginning of Council, if a resident who'd like their clergy person to give the invocation, contact a Councilperson (they rotate each mtg.) –The discussion of Rules of Council. She suggested a Computer Use, Internet and Email Policy for Council. Council was asked to sign a policy when the Chrome books were received, but it doesn't apply to Council as they are not employees of the administration. She asked Dir. Butler to draft a policy for Council in their Rules. Since we ask employees to sign that policy, she thought Council should adhere to the same protocols. Councilman Van Kirk emailed he wasn't in support of it, because it's not required. It doesn't matter to her if Council doesn't do it, but she thought Council should be held to the standards employees are. –Ord. 2018-93, relating to the Brooklyn Acres, was proposed by her. We've had a long-standing policy for the Cleveland residents of Brooklyn Acres to have a resident rate, for decades. We began charging non-residents for the key fobs at the Senior Center. Those are her proposals for all residents on the Cleveland side of Brooklyn Acres to continue to join the Rec Center at resident rates; and the senior citizens who wish to join get it for free, as our residents do. They've historically been an important part of our community. She wanted to clarify she proposed it with those two items. –Keystone and Victory Capital are unfortunate news; it will be approximately \$630,000 – though Victory Capital will leave some people behind. As stated it wasn't a great surprise; they wanted to stay in Brooklyn, but we didn't have anything to meet with expectations. –The developer who purchased the JD Norman and Keystone properties is looking to fill them, and won't be too much of a loss if they backfill the facilities. –Shared if anyone needs help with applying for most types of assistance (not sure on Medicare), they can go to any branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library and get assistance and get started and how to apply. –Thanked Miranda, ACO, for her work with Dir. Butler on updating our animal ordinance. It was a good meeting and discussion and she explained and advocated for the changes. She appreciates her time on it.

Mary Albier: Recognized three outstanding residents who passed this past year: Jim Grabbe, Antonio Musto and Aldo Zappa. She spoke of each of them and their personalities and how they will be missed. She offered condolences to all of them. –Hopes and encourages all Council to vote for Ord. 2018-93. She said Brooklyn Acres is a great organization and they help many people. She mentioned some of their events. –She hopes there are no employees using computers for personal or pleasure activities; and if they are that the administration addresses it.

Ron Van Kirk: Said it's unfortunate Victory Capital is leaving, and it could have been avoided. We have to do something to entice and hold these types of businesses; we don't have the Class A office space, and we need to come up with a plan, some way to get this done. As was said, we saw this coming. He hopes when we lay out plans for the future of the city it would involve some outside the box thinking.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Katie Gallagher: Passed on condolences to all the families mentioned. There were tremendous people lost this year, and it's unfortunate. –As mentioned, Miranda our ACO has been a great addition to the City; as of Monday she is a joint employee with Brooklyn and Parma Hts. She's busy here and we're glad to have her full time. –The Hurricane Alley mound was discussed at Finance Comm. Dr. Gleichauf is looking for the city to contribute \$3-4,000 in engineering costs; they're looking to excavate the hill, move the dirt around so it's level. It would cost the school about \$35,000. She's been tasked to get more information before Council makes a decision, which she will do tomorrow. –Street paving projects for this year allocated \$1.1M in the budget. She honed down the list with Council: Hurricane Alley improvements, W. Biddulph Rd. repair/resurfacing, Clinton Rd. repair, Ansonia repair/resurfacing, asphalt maintenance on Woburn, Hammond, Sunset Oval, Outlook Ave., Springcrest, Dawncliff, Memphis Villas So., Beech, Morton, Northcliff, Idlewood, Outlook Dr., Bentwood north and south, Rodoan south. As streets are maintained in the future for reconstruction, we'll also put money into the streets that we've put money into the last several years so they last longer. –Has a Board of Control mtg. in her office Wednesday at 8:30 with Dir. Verba with several items on the agenda. It's a long list of items; the books were just opened for the year, with the bulk being purchases for the 1st quarter. The information is on the city's website. –Reminded offices are closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King; trash will be one day late. –As discussed, it's unfortunate Keystone is leaving. They gave reasons of the potential rising tariff costs and relocation of production to Canada and Chicago is necessary for them to reduce production costs. We have done an investment which we will try to get our money back, and Sen. Sherrod Brown is working with the city to make sure it happens. The silver lining is that the property has been purchased and the payroll in the new facility will be higher than what we're receiving now. –Victory Capital, a lot of people could see this coming. She sat with the CEO several times, including three years ago when talking about the PUD and their need for class A commercial space. He said they were looking elsewhere, so we were trying to incentivize them to stay. It's a huge payroll loss for us. It's space Key Bank will hopefully be able to use as their leases come due from downtown in 2020, or to lease to another business. She has a meeting lined up with Key Bank on some options; so hopefully as one door closes another one opens, so we can keep Brooklyn moving in a positive direction.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Finance Dir. Raguz: As discussed at Finance, they will be implementing a new financial transparency website. The goal is to go live over the next couple months. It's a website used mainly for public purposes that will give an overview of the city finances, key financial information and economic information. He will keep everyone of the progress as we go along.

Building Comm. Kulсар: Passed on some stats from last year and their annual report from the Building Dept. Project costs came in at \$26.8M. Resident projects totaled \$2.4M. There were 1290 property maintenance inspections. Rental dwelling licenses are up to 407 properties. Foreclosure filing notifications are down, as are vacant properties registered. The NARI Home Improvement show is going on at the IX Center and it offers projects to look at.

REQUESTS:

Request by the Mayor for the confirmation of the re-appointment of Joe Magrey to the Civil Service Commission for the term ending 1/24/25. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Balbier to reappoint. **VOTE: To confirm the re-appointment:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

Request by the Mayor for the confirmation of the appointment of Joe Wrost to the Recreation Board to finish the unexpired term ending 12/31/20. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to reappoint. **VOTE: To confirm the appointment:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

Request the acceptance of a grant for the Recreation Center and authorization of equipment relating to the grant. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to accept the grant and authorize purchase for the playground

in Memorial Park. **VOTE: To accept the grant and approve the purchase:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

Request by the Mayor of the acceptance of a NOPEC sponsorship for the city, for \$2,000 for the Fall Fest. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to accept the grant. **VOTE: To accept:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

LEGISLATION:

Ord. #2018-88, Amending Chapter 505 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brooklyn to update the Code regarding animals. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Pucci to amend the changes made and put on second reading. **VOTE: To amend:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(AMENDED, SECOND READING)**

Ord. #2018-92, Establishing Brooklyn Mutual Homes, Inc. (Community Partner) rates for membership and programs at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center and Natatorium. President Van Kirk read an amendment to Section 1. "In keeping with the City of Brooklyn's Community Partner practice, all Cleveland residents of Brooklyn Mutual Homes, Inc. are invited to become a Brooklyn Mutual Homes Community Partner members with all benefits and costs associated with it at existing Parma, Parma Hts. and Linndale Community Partner rates at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center Natatorium." **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Celcherts to amend. **VOTE: To amend:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(AMENDED, SECOND READING)**

Ord. #2018-93, Establishing Brooklyn Mutual Homes, Inc. (Community Partner) rates for membership and programs at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center and Natatorium and at the Brooklyn Senior Center. **(SECOND READING)**

Ord. #2018-94, Enacting Chapter 729, "Tobacco Product Vendors; Sales to persons Under (Age) 21" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brooklyn, and amending conflicting ordinances. Councilwoman Pucci asked Dir. Butler if we should look at public meetings now or wait until legislation is adopted. Dir Butler replied he would always recommend first passing legislation and fixing an effective date in the future, and build on the anticipation that it will take effect. Pres. Van Kirk asked Dir. Butler to make those changes in the legislation that Mr. Novickis responded to and then send to Council. **(SECOND READING)**

Ord. #2019-1, Amending Ord. 2018-55, Establishing Linndale Community Partner Rates at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center and Natatorium. **(FIRST READING)**

President Van Kirk said Council anticipates going into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel and return to regular session with no further business. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Ryan Shockey to adjourn to executive sessions dealing with matters personnel with the Mayor, Dir. Verba and Dir. Butler. **VOTE: To adjourn to executive session:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

Council adjourned to Council and then reconvened.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Pucci to adjourn. **VOTE: To adjourn:** Yes: Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Balbier. No: None. **(ADJOURNED)**

Mary-Jo Banish, Clerk of Council

Ron Van Kirk, President of Council