

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

January 12, 2015

7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

President Gallagher wished everyone a happy new year. Updated on Council's Organization meeting from Jan. 5th. Thanked her colleagues for who re-elected her as President. Ron Van Kirk is Council Pres. Pro-Tem; Kevin Tanski is Rec. Bd. rep.; Kathy Pucci, Econ. Dev. Rep.; Katie Gallagher on Domestic Abuse Comm.; Finance: Kathy Pucci (chair), Ron Van Kirk, Andy Celcherts; Public Safety/Environ.: Ron Van Kirk (chair), Tony DeMarco, Mary Balbier; Public Works: Andy Celcherts (chair), Kevin Tanski, Katie Gallagher; Andy Celcherts, School Bd. liaison; Tony DeMarco, Fair Housing rep.; Mary Balbier, Legislative Update; Fire Dependent Bd. members: Tony DeMarco, Kevin Tanski; Sustainability, Kevin Tanski. The majority of Council agreed directors need to use ordinance explanation form previously created (Council Rule 23). Council also held a Budget Workshop on Jan. 8th, discussing: capital requests from the Service Dept.; need for daily overtime (with the Service Dir. and Gen. Foreman) for creating schedules (discontinued two weeks ago); need of both General Foreman and Road Foreman on staff and a dispatcher. As the Finance Dir. was out sick they briefly discussed personnel costs, union requests for the year, and possibility of having to lay off employees. Councilmembers may address these in their own reports if they wish. On Agenda are appointments for various city committees; a request to dispose of expired firefighting gear; liquor permit request from LaVilla; Ord. second reading on a contract with Cuini and Panichi; and Ord. establishing full-time position of Asst. Bldg. Comm.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Lou Changeri of 8972 Trail Run read a letter he received over the weekend about citizens and those informed and uninformed about "different" abled individuals and/or those unversed in events around them.

Rick Cyngier of 6211 Delora Ave., as newly elected School Bd. President for everyone's support of the Brooklyn City Schools. Congratulated President Gallagher, and thanked all Councilmembers for their board assignments, and look forward to working with everyone for the betterment of Brooklyn. Superintendent Cynthia Walker will be retiring in June, and there is a search process to find her replacement, hopefully by May 1. The K-8 construction project is moving along well, with 39.3% completion as of 12/19, and on schedule with construction and completion in 2015 of the new school buildings. The Board hopes to work within the budget allotted for the new K-8 facility. Reminded Council and Mayor of the Chamber's Taste of Brooklyn event on Sat., Feb. 7th from 7-9 p.m., \$20/person, food/drink provided. The High School's Jazz Band will play, local restaurants will be there, and scholarship money will be raised for students. Call Valerie Thompson at the Chamber for info and tickets at 216-288-5484.

Victor Ardito of 7439 Outlook Ave. likes the new recycling containers, but didn't think the new pamphlet was as clear as expected. Has a sample from another city to show. The traffic lights with LED during snow storms start to ice up, wondered if new ones are resistant to that. Chief Mielke did not know. Also noted the EPA and Govt. is trying to put ethanol E-85 gasoline out, and it's not good for small equipment, or older cars, and goes stale quick.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Councilwoman Pucci): The Comm. met at 6:30, and they are always open to the public. The Comm. addressed the following: recommended emergency passage of Res. #14, a contract with Cuini and Panichi for services for the CAFR, not to exceed \$24,750; first reading of Ord. #1, amending the pay range for Asst. Bldg. Comm. (from a top range of \$61,000 to a top range of \$69,000); discussed entering into an agreement for a municipal advisor (Matt Stuczyski of Huntington Public Finance) for an annual retainer of \$12,000 (the Comm. voted to affirm and support the contract). Dir. Enovitch gave all the financial figures for 2014.

Public Safety & Environmental Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): There is a Public Safety mtg. at 6:30 Jan. 15th in the Council Chambers to discuss Fire Dept. needs for the future.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): There is a short survey regarding the Recreation Dept. to be filled out and dropped off at the Rec Center, or scanned and emailed to mmcginty@brooklynohio.gov. The surveys are at City Hall, the Senior Center, and Rec Center; also on the city's website (to be printed out) www.brooklynohio.gov The next Rec Bd. mtg. is Thurs., Jan. 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Rec Center mtg. room.

Zoning Bd. of Appeals (Comm. Kulcsar): The Board meeting scheduled for Jan. 15th is cancelled due to lack of applications.

Planning Commission (Councilwoman Gallagher): The Commission met Jan. 8th for a request from K & D Mgt. for a parking lot area on an undeveloped parcel across the street on Rabbit Run – it was deferred for various reasons including the parking lot pulling out into the street, a possible property tax delinquency, and question on ownership of property. The request will not be heard until the matters are cleared up.

Public Works Committee (Councilman Celcherts): The preliminary ratings of an applied for OPWCA project for Roadoan came in (rank 47), and most likely not receive funding for it. Engineer Courtney will re-look at it and try a traffic survey with NOACA, and more details with utilities and possibly re-applying for it. We'll also work with the County on any other sewer issues that can be addressed in that area.

School Board (Councilman Celcherts): The Bd. held a special mtg. Dec. 29th for personnel issues, in executive session. At their organizational meeting Mr. Cyngier was voted in as president and Ms. Bartczek as vice president; discussed tax budget, property tax collections, and other items listed on BoardDocs. The marching band will perform at the Jan. 19th Cavs/Bulls game. The musical Cinderella will be March 5, 6 and 7. The Boosters have a Night at the Races on Feb. 21st. The next Bd. mtg. is Jan. 20th in room 123 at the High School, open to the public.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Mary Balbier: Last Thursday the Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon at Ridge Manor Party Center, with presentation by Marti Ferian and Todd Hopkins updating the construction of the school. It is on time and on budget. She walked over by it and it's exciting to see the new construction. Wished everyone a happy, healthy and positive new year. She looks forward to working with the Administration and Council for the best services for our citizens. Congratulated Mr. Cyngier on being Board President, he's a great father, family man, and cares about all kids. Gave a shout out to Ohio State fans – Go Buckeyes.

Kevin Tanski: Welcomed everyone back, hoped it was a good Christmas and new year. Gave special thanks to Dir. Verba and the Service Dept. on keeping the streets plowed and salted. Also congratulated Mr. Cyngier on his Board position.

Andy Celcherts: A new marking tool was implemented by the city. On Facebook look up Brooklyn 2.0, or the city's website on the home page with a link, and on YouTube. It's a monthly series of clips featuring various Brooklyn businesses (retail, manufacturing, and others). Segments are about 15 minutes long, with the first one in December featuring several retailers and the Ridge Park Cinema. January's segments will feature athletics, with Gold's Gym, the martial arts facility on Memphis, and the Recreation Center. Upcoming segments will be feature businesses in the city and showcase what they manufacture as components and finished goods. Brooklyn Youth Football has a wing night on January 31st at 7 p.m. at

Bleacher's on Ridge in Parma. Saw various compliments on Facebook to Dir. Verba and staff for their work on the snow removal.

Tony DeMarco: Hope all had a great Christmas and holidays; further wishes all a happy and prosperous 2105. Took the week between Christmas and New Year's off for entertaining family and friends, and during that time received calls from residents upset not having the annual calendar delivered to homes. As he had no knowledge of it he contacted the Mayor, who got back to him that a decision took place in a mtg. to only order 1,500 calendars (versus ordering and mailing 5,300 last year). City Hall and the Senior Center informed callers they had to pick the calendars up. The Mayor said the decision was made to save money. The Finance Dir. sent the invoice for 2103 calendars (total, \$5,149.90). In calculating, the savings were miniscule on a \$26 million budget. He asked the Mayor, as a service to our seniors, for 900 calendars that he would personally deliver to residents signed up for the Chit Chat, as some can't or won't go to the center. His secretary responded he could have one box (100 calendars), as the remaining calendars were at various locations through the city. He understands they are the Senior Center, Rec Center and City Hall. He apologized on his behalf for this. He asked who made the decision and when it was made, and found out a mtg with the Mayor, secretary and Econ. Dev. Dir., and Councilmembers Celcherts and Gallagher on June 14th decided it. He thinks the public should have been informed since it affected every resident. It contains information everyone could use and it was eliminated. He thinks the decision was short-sighted, and it was not communicated to Councilmembers or residents. His conclusion on printing 3,800 less calendars and not mail to residents would irritate some residents; and feels it's a sad commentary on the lack of leadership, as he's said before. It's sad and unfortunate for many residents. Concluding, wishes the Buckeyes much luck tonight.

Ron Van Kirk: Congratulated President Gallagher on being re-elected as Council President, and thanked his colleagues for selecting him again as President Pro-Tem. Congratulated Mr. Cyngier on being elected to School Bd. President. Wishes everyone a happy new year.

Kathy Pucci: Wished everyone a happy new year. Thanked the Finance Comm. for re-electing her chairperson, and also the Councilmembers for electing her as representative to Economic Development Comm.; she will continue her hard work on behalf of Council and residents. Thanked the safety forces who were busy over the holidays. The Fire Dept. had a rescue, with a sad outcome, and a fire. The police were involved in apprehending someone during a chase. They are on duty for the residents, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and are appreciated for being there when we need them. Thanked the Service Dept. for efforts doing a good job on snow removal. Council had a budget mtg. last week, and she thanked Dir. Verba, Mr. Bruzek and Mr. Rini of Service. Assured directors, dept. heads and Chiefs their motivation is not to create problems when asking questions about proposed expenditures; because they have a responsibility to be prepared for the drop in revenue. The reality is that the new American Greetings headquarters is on time to open in the middle of 2016, which is around the corner for us; and it would be irresponsible to wait until they leave rather than prepare now. Money is being put away, efforts are made to be caught up and get ahead on streets and capital purchases. She wants to make sure we continue to provide current services, and not take the approach of selecting a department (such as Rec Center, Senior Center) and eliminate it. It does require us to reduce spending. Questioned an article she saw that quoted end of year figures the Rec Center lost, and Council received end of year figures today from the Finance Dir.; she wondered where the reporter got her information. She asked the Mayor what the policy is on employees speaking to media; we want honesty, but a focus on positives. Asked Dir. Enovitch if he could come up with total revenue and total expenditures for the Rec Center, because it includes other items like insurance, utilities, etc., and those are important figures moving forward. He said he would. President Gallagher mentioned the Planning Comm. last week, and asked Comm. Kulcsar in his report any further update (verifying who owners are). Brooklyn Community Improvement Corp. has their annual meeting, as required, on Feb. 2nd at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room, open to the public. For communication, as far as the calendars, she's disappointed in the lack of communication with the rest of Council on this decision. She explained why we started with calendars, and why she feels it's important (lists all events in the city – city, schools, organizations), such as contracting with the county for printing, to help with costs. She also told Councilman DeMarco she would assist in dropping off calendars to seniors on Chit Chat list; but did ask the Mayor where the calendars are and where they were dropped off, and who authorized taking them somewhere. She also doesn't recall being told there would be a survey for the Rec Center and Police. Though not opposed to them, it's an example of something sent to residents and Council didn't know about it. Thanked Mr. Changeri for reading the letter. A lot of situations can be solved with patience and listening. Congratulated Mr. Cyngier

being elected President of School Bd. Encouraged residents to purchase tickets to the Taste of Brooklyn, it's a fun event, with many businesses from Brooklyn providing food, music from the Brooklyn Jazz Band, and profits from the event going to scholarships. Responded to Mr. Ardito's recycling comment an idea of applying for a recycling grant, possibly for a magnet with information on trash and recycling.

Katie Gallagher: Council received an e-mail from Dir. Verba today that the senior driveways will be done first thing tomorrow, as workers had to be sent home due to the number of straight hours already worked. Also the one-armed truck went down and the tipper had to go out and complete the route. Council also received a letter from Rec. Mgr. McGinty about the Ohio School Athletic Assn., that the John M. Coyne Recreation Center was chosen for Sectional and District games, with 20 games from Feb. 16 through March 7. She was sitting in the room when the calendars were mentioned. It is an Administrative decision. She should have passed it onto Council, but made a mistake and did not. She sends many e-mails to Council with questions, and gets very little response back, which is frustrating, but not a defense of this. She can say that a conversation was had with the Mayor and his secretary and it was just a conversation from another conversation. She commented people of her generation (specifically her) throw them in recycling, because she looks at everything electronically; and understands seniors in the city need something so she would never get rid of the calendars. It saved a few thousand in postage. Finds it funny that in a budget mtg Councilman DeMarco spoke of laying off safety and service employees, but unwilling to look at expenses, even when it comes to pennies. She was taught if you look at the pennies you don't need to look at the dollars, they will work themselves out. A city's responsibility is to look at everything that happens – to look at the small things all the time, always asking how we can improve, the city will move forward. She stands by her position to look at it, but it might not have been the right way. We have the right and obligation to look at these things as they come up.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Balbier: Parma Hts., Parma and Brooklyn are looking at having a central dispatch in Parma, and a main thing was to get a grant to put equipment in. Last week the County gave the grant, just a few dollars under \$1 million; so it should be a state of the art dispatch center. He will be asking for appointments to the Rec Board, Domestic Abuse Comm., and Civil Service Comm. Calendars – he makes decisions weekly on things to save money, some very small, and he thought this decision would save money but still have them available. They were put at the City Hall, Senior Center, Library, and also it was suggested at the Westbrook Apts. They are available, just not mailed out. If it's such a problem it can be revisited next year. The only reason it was done was at the time to save money again. Hopes all had a happy new year. Go Buckeyes.

Councilwoman Pucci asked how many calendars are left, and how many were taken to the Westbrooks. The Mayor said at City Hall one and a half boxes. He doesn't know how many at the Senior Center. People have been coming in and getting them. He will find out about the Westbrooks. She asked who authorized taking them to one location where people live, though could see putting them in public locations. The Mayor explained there are 700 people living there, a lot of them elderly.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Finance Dir. Enovitch: 2014 finished as expected. Year to date, General Fund, revenue was on target at \$18,285,661.02; with expenses below budget at \$16,974,852.56. After transfers to the Budget Stabilization and Economic Development Funds, we spent \$2,730,523 less than we took in; which is a surplus, added to our General Fund, making it \$9,800,737 (\$1,032,000 greater than the beginning balance.) The total unencumbered General Fund balance for year ending 2014 is \$13,437,637.01. The Council requires a Gen. Fund balance of 16% of annual revenues year end, which was exceeded; the end of the year Gen. Fund balance was 73% of annual revenues. He complimented the Council, directors and Administration on a fine job this year. This is probably the last, best, end of year for awhile; but are up to meeting the challenge in the coming years.

Bldg. Comm. Kulcsar: Said the Asst. Bldg. Comm. position requires a candidate with years of experience, multiple state certifications, on the front line through construction projects, and property maintenance

issues. In the search there were four candidates that met minimum requirements, and half of them had salary requirements higher than our scale; so he feels we need to raise it to get the best possible candidate for the city's future. As to the Planning Comm., he has not heard back from the applicant, but a North Star Property Partners is the owner. Mrs. Stanton, Bldg. secretary, searched, and there were no back taxes, as reported by a resident.

Police Chief Mielke was asked, and he has no objections to the liquor permit request.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Balbier requests confirmation to appoint Michelle Rivera to the vacant position on the Recreation Board with a term expiring December 31, 2017. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to confirm the appointment. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To confirm:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

Mayor Balbier requests confirmation to re-appoint Kay Hutkay to the Civil Service Commission with a term expiring January 24, 2021. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to confirm the appointment. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To confirm:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

Mayor Balbier requests confirmation to appoint Joanne Maroulis to the vacant position on the Domestic Abuse Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2018. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to confirm the appointment. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To confirm:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

REQUESTS:

Fire Chief Zemek requests authorization to dispose of expired firefighter gear. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to authorize the disposition of expired fire fighting gear. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Authorize:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Pucci. No: Van Kirk. **(AUTHORIZED)**

Liquor permit request for LaVilla Center on Brookpark Road, for a D5I. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts for a position of No Objection. **VOTE RESULTED:** *No Objection:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Pucci. No: Van Kirk. **(NO OBJECTION)**

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION 2014-10, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Ciuni and Panichi, Inc. to provide services to the City of Brooklyn for the GAAP Conversion and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report year ending December 31, 2014 not to exceed \$24,750. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to Suspend the Rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci. No: None. *To Adopt:* Balbier, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco, Van Kirk, Pucci. No: None **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2015-1, Amending Ord. 2008-10, as amended by Ord. 2013-64, entitled, Establishing the full-time position of the Asst. Building Commissioner with qualifications necessary to assist the State of Ohio mandated commercial, industrial and residential inspections so as to maintain State Certification of the Building Department. (new salary range if passed, \$51,000-\$69,000) **(FIRST READING)**

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