

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

December 18, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Present: Debbie Tomusko
Kathy Pucci
Kevin Tanski
Barb Paulitzky
Ron Van Kirk

Absent: Tony DeMarco
Mary Balbier

Pledge of Allegiance.

President Van Kirk said there were two Resolutions to pass this evening at this time:

RESOLUTION 2017-15, To Honor and Recognize Antony DeMarco for his service to the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. He read the Resolution. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED: To suspend the rules:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. *To adopt:* Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

RESOLUTION 2017-16, To Honor and Recognize Deborah Tomusko for her service to the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. He read the Resolution. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED: To suspend the rules:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. *To adopt:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. Abstain: Tomusko. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

PUBLIC SESSION:

Paula Ritter of 8974 Boxwood Circle congratulated the Councilmembers, and thanked them for their service. Thanked the Mayor, administrative staff, Council, and the unseen (secretaries, clerks, volunteers...) who serve the residents. Thanked the Service Dept. especially. Christmas is a time of memories and thanksgiving. She doesn't remember seeing Councilman DeMarco being appointed, but recalled Councilwoman Tomusko, and thinks the Resolution said it all. They brought expertise and background and desire to service. She remembers 20 years ago a man giving her flowers when she left Council (she thanks Joe Magrey for his kindness). She gave Councilwoman Tomusko a plant. Though there are differences, each person up there is here because they love the community and mean well. She wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy, healthy New Year. Mentioned the dignity that Gregory and John Frey brought to Council, as great men. God bless everyone and thanks for the work everyone does.

Victor Ardito of 7439 Outlook Ave. said years ago the city voted down building a new complete complex (for schools); but the High School needs work and we need to keep the city going. Think of that when it comes on (ballot) next time, to keep it strong. Many years ago it started with the metric system, which made sense, which helped him in woodworking. Unfortunately our politicians decided to not go with the metric system; he hopes one day we go with it, with the rest of the world, it flows. Wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Diana Gavis of 6501 Southfield Ave. said she's a student of Mr. Van Kirk. She asked how the city plans to make up for the loss of money as a result of American Greetings leaving with a large portion of the city's income.

Victor Ardito said when the question is responded to, about the one company coming and bringing a \$3M payroll, add that we'll only see about \$100,000.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): The Comm. met at 6:30 and recommended for adoption: Ord. 2017-81, -82, -83, -84 all have to do with purchase plots of land on the corner of Memphis and Tiedeman,

which has been discussed at length over mtgs.; it's a total for all of \$844,000; Ord. 2017-87, Authorizing Capital Improvement Plan for 2018 (various capital items to purchase in 2018, as discussed in budget mtgs.); Ord. 2017-88 (hope to pass by emergency), Amending Annual Appropriations (second change to it in 2017, reviewed some changes). With these changes and adjusted RITA tax collection numbers, what was a budgeted deficit of \$1.5M in 2017, it looks like we will now see a net gain and be in the black. There are still question marks in replacing dollars vacated at AG, with positive movement seen. But 2017 was better than anticipated.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Debbie Tomusko: This is her final Council mtg. in her term and tenure. She's been asked if she's disappointed in not continuing as Councilperson; this is the natural flow of life, doors close and open. She's had a blessed life, with multiple experiences; and blessed to have had this opportunity. It's been a wonderful and eye opening experience. If taken seriously, Council work takes up a fair amount of time, so with her time freed up she's looking to her next adventure. Thanked her fellow Councilpeople and the Mayor; she's learned from all of them. Councilwoman Pucci has been a mentor and wonderful for her, and they've done some good work together, in research and effort, which has been a great experience. Thanked the directors, who are the link to the citizens (with resident issues or questions); she appreciates their follow through and responses. The citizens of Brooklyn have been so gracious and supportive to her. It's a wonderful community that she enjoys. -Gives special recognition and thanks to Paula Ritter for coming; she was a trailblazer for women in Brooklyn politics. She is owed a debt of gratitude, as one of the first women on Council and in politics in Brooklyn. Spoke of being one three women in engineering school, and persevering, and how Paula Ritter did that, and cares deeply about the city. Has gratitude and thanks for experience and opportunity. -Wished everyone a Merry and blessed Christmas and happy, healthy New Year.

Kathy Pucci: Reported that members of the Safety Comm. toured the Parma Regional Dispatch Center Dec. 13th, (thanked Chief Mielke, Sgt. Knapp and Wally Samijlenko, dispatch center mgr.) for a tour and answering of questions. There have been some issues, but we've seen some improvement since he's taken over, though there's a way to go. His background (former police officer, dispatcher) and his commitment will help. Our costs will increase if we continue with this (additional equipment needed). The Chiefs and Mayor have all the documenting and following up to assure we're making progress on issues, but there will be a big decision to make next year. -The question on loss of revenue of Amer. Greetings; we have prepared, with a Budget Stabilization Fund, and some movement filling the space with new companies. There is a way to go, but in the next few years hopefully we'll bridge that gap. We've significantly reduced expenses and being judicious with our money and planning on spending. -Purchasing of properties. Residents have contacted her with questions. It's new for us, but other cities do it. She supports it because the properties aren't producing revenue for us (one delinquent in property taxes); we can assemble the parcels, hope a developer will purchase them. We would have control as the owner for the timeline and what it will be used for. -Thanked Mr. DeMarco for his service to our community. Though they didn't always have the same views, he always put the residents first. -She began working with Ms. Tomusko when she was recommended for a position on the Econ. Development Comm. (by former director Migliorino on a regional level). She was impressed by her intelligence and experience and passion for the city. She appreciates her dedication and service to our community. -Thanked Mrs. Ritter, she has respect and admiration for her and her service. You can always count on her to do the right and appropriate thing. -She considers herself honored and privileged to have served with some great and dedicated people who served, adding Rita Brown and Tom Coyne to that list. -Wished everyone a happy and blessed Christmas, and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year.

Kevin Tanski: Offered condolences to the Sternik family on the loss of their sister. Russ Sternik is a resident, city employee, and one of his closest friends. -Thanked Debbie Tomusko for her service to the city. -Wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Barb Paulitzky: Thanked Mr. DeMarco for his service, she didn't know him long or well. Wished him all the luck in the world in his new endeavor and his new city. -Thanked Debbie Tomusko for her service, and for introducing the long overdue ordinance that allows dogs in Memorial Park. -The concert at the Baptist Church was inspiring and fantastic. -Wished Christ's peace in this season and happy New Year to everyone.

Ron Van Kirk: Thanked the residents who attended Christmas in Brooklyn this year; it's usually at the Senior Center, but there was a scheduling conflict with the school's concert, so moved it to the church. It's a privilege to live in, work in, worship here, and serve on City Council in the City of Brooklyn. -2017 was an interesting year; despite differences, the city has moved forward, and better now than the start of the year. 2018 brings great promise and opportunity. He looks forward to working with Councilmembers and administration. -Thanked Miss. Tomusko and Mr. DeMarco for their service, and wishes them the best in future endeavors. -Thanked Miss Paula (Ritter) for coming and always being an inspiration, and past service to the city. -Echoed Mr. Ardito's concerns about the school levy. Something has to be done about the roof; hopefully funds will be raised to replace it. On the payroll, will make sure numbers are broken down when we have them for the residents. -Diana is his student in his Government class at Heritage Christian School and a great student; thanked her for coming. Thanked Councilwoman Pucci for answer her question very well. -From him and his family, wished everyone a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gallagher: Thanked Diana for coming, she knows it's nerve-racking to come and speak. Councilwoman Pucci covered it. We've made a lot of movement. American Greetings made over \$2M in payroll in the city, and we get 2.5% of that portion. It's a small portion we looked at retaining and getting back at this point. We're looking at Medical Mutual coming in 2020. We've had National Safety Apparel, HKM, HMI, Inogen to that 1.4M square feet of space, and when MMO comes in its 300,000 sq. ft. So it's one-quarter of the space to fill it, and not a quarter to make up past revenue. We are on our way, and it will take some time. One hiccup in the purchase agreement with IRG is that IRG couldn't move any companies in there until American Greetings moved out, and they didn't move out until Sept. last year; so we couldn't talk to businesses early on. The reserve fund is to close the gap if we needed it; thankfully we didn't. We've been good stewards of money, and have seen some movement on hours, and impacted residents very little, which shows the hard work of City Council and Administration, to make the best effort to move forward. -Wished Debbie Tomusko good luck in her adventures, and thanks for public service to the city. -Wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Finance Dir. Schaeffer: Thanked Council for passing the 2018 permanent appropriations, putting us three months ahead of schedule. Appreciates the eliminating the practice of passing temporary appropriations. Ord. 2017-87 for the Capital items as a package, would allow us instead of having individual pieces of legislation go to Council, this consolidates and streamlines the process for the departments to go forward with this items. Let him know if there are any questions. If any of those items exceeds the purchase price listed, we will come to Council for individual approval of the item, as well as items not on that list. -The 2016 health indicators were released by the Auditor of State Dec. 12, and the city received only two cautionary indicators out of 17. In comparison to many surrounding cities, it's a positive outlook. He's back and forth on critical #6 (yellow cautionary outlook indicator) because General Fund property tax revenues decreased by more than 1% from 2015 to 2016, which is a very slim margin (a 1% decrease automatically gives a cautionary indicator). He's spoken to other Finance Directors; we're not alone in Ohio cities that had a 1% decrease that period on the same. He's provided more information to Council on that. -He's asking change #2 to the 2017 permanent appropriations be passed by emergency. The final change is under \$16M for 2017. Last year at this time he was asking to appropriate \$17,765,000. He thanked Council for their efforts; we've been able to do a lot to address the expenditures in General Fund. He envisions a similar process for 2018 and beyond, and getting it started early in meeting on the budget process in May and June.

President Van Kirk said he failed to mention to come hear Brandon Tanski (Councilman Tanski's son) playing drums with the School of Rock on Jan. 13th and 21st at Slim and Chubby's.

REQUESTS:

Request from Mayor Gallagher for Council Confirmation on the reappointment of Meg Ryan Shockey to the Planning Commission, term is 1.1.18 to 12.31.23. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to appoint Meg Ryan

Shockey to Planning Comm. **VOTE RESULTED: To confirm:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

Request from Mayor Gallagher for Council Confirmation on the reappointment of Allison Rafter, Ryan Kelber, Rebecca Byndas to the Recreation Board, terms are three years beginning 1.1.18. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to reappoint Allison Rafter to Rec Bd. **VOTE RESULTED: To confirm:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)** **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to appoint Ryan Kelber to Rec Bd. **VOTE RESULTED: To confirm:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)** **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to appoint Rebecca Byndas to Rec Bd. **VOTE RESULTED: To confirm:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 2017-81, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Midwest Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses for the purchase of certain real property known as 4346 Tiedeman Rd. PP#432-03-001, -007, -008. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to adopt. (for \$300,000) **VOTE RESULTED: To adopt:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2017-82, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Eli A. Mina for the purchase of certain real property known as 10139 Memphis Ave. PP#432-03-002. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Paulitzky to adopt. (for \$185,000) **VOTE RESULTED: To adopt:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2017-83, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Allyson Lawry for the purchase of certain real property known as 4302 Tiedeman Rd. PP#432-03-003. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Paulitzky to adopt. (for \$140,000) **VOTE RESULTED: To adopt:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2017-84, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Lottie Taylor-Blake for the purchase of certain real property known as 10100 Manilla Ave. PP#432-03-004, -005, -006. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to adopt. (for \$150,000) **VOTE RESULTED: To adopt:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2017-86, Establishing a non-resident fee for key fob cards for use with the MySeniorCenter System at the Brooklyn Senior Center. **(SECOND READING)**

ORDINANCE 2017-87, Authorizing the Capital Improvement Plan for 2018. **(FIRST READING)**

ORDINANCE 2017-88, Amended Annual Appropriations, requesting emergency adoption. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED: To suspend the rules:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **To adopt:** Yes: Tomusko, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

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

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Minutes approved: 1.22.18