

# VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## MINUTES OF A MEETING

December 1, 2020

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A meeting of the Council of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on December 1, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. with Mayor Michael Procuk presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

Present at roll call:	Councilmen:	Blados, Lahiff, Lasky, Presot & Walsh
	Mayor:	Procuk
	Clerk/Treasurer:	Frank
	Law Director:	Dowling
	Engineer:	Henry
	Police Chief:	Meade
	Fire Chief:	Stefanko
	Asst. Chief:	Lasky
	Service Director:	Hatgas
	Bldg. Commissioner:	
	Asst. Bldg. Comm.:	Sonenstein
	Comm. Service Dir:	Guilfoyle
	Recreation Dir:	Krzymowek
	Soccer Dir:	
	GUESTS:	Jacqueline Samson, Officer Leahy

**MOTION :** Mr. Lahiff moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 regular council meeting with a correction under Correspondence to delete "Tiffany from RTA" to read "Stephanie Mercado, Partner KJK responded..." Seconded by Mr. Walsh Motion carried 5-0 as corrected

**MOTION:** Mrs. Presot moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 regular council meeting as distributed. Second by Mr. Walsh Motion carried 5-0

### ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

**ORDINANCE 66-2020:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING HIRING OF THREE POLICE OFFICERS, JACLYN MARIE SAMPSON, FRANK WILLIAM DiFRANCO and MEGHAN RENE BLAIR.

Sponsor: All of Council

Second: Mrs. Presot

Yeas: Lahiff, Blados, Presot, Lasky, Walsh

Nays: None

Ordinance 66-2020 is adopted 5-0

At this time Mayor Procuk swore in Jaclyn Marie Sampson the first female full-time officer in our village. The council members each congratulated Jaclyn.

At this time Mayor Procuk swore in Frank William DiFranco. Frank lives on Lancaster in our village. The council members each congratulated Officer DiFranco.

At this time Mayor Procuk swore in Meghan Rene Blair. Meghan introduced her father who is a Captain on the Parma PD, her mother is the secretary to the Mayor of Parma, her boyfriend is an officer on the //////////////// PD, her uncle is //////////////// and her aunt is with a law firm. She grew up in Medina and has grown to love Brooklyn Heights in the short time she has learned about it. The council members then congratulated Meghan.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Kenya Gray, a board member with the VFW Post 3483 in the Great City of Brooklyn Hts. We are currently in the planning stages for the 1st race from the VFW on May 8, 2021, this

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- would be a 5k, run, walk, and participates could bring their pets as well. Hopefully COVID19 will not stop the festivities. We would like to invite you and your staff out on that day to the event. During the planning of the event we would like to invite you or someone from your staff to a meeting on December 7th at 6:15 pm at the VFW, or please let us know what steps we need to follow for the event. We are planning to have a representative from FOX 8 News, and Hermes Sports & Events to attend the meeting.  
The contact person for this event will be Rhonda, she is the VFW/Cantine Manager.  
Rhonda Whitelock 216-469-1253  
Dennis Derbin 216-509-8586  
Kenya Gray 216-337-6312
- Received an email from Lindsey of State Auditor Yost's office regarding HB404. This extends the order to allow public meeting to meet remotely through July 1, 2021. It also extends the extension for some state issued licenses to the same date.
- We will continue to meet remotely until the July date unless Governor DeWine changes the order.
- Read an email from Ted Biskind our accounts benefits person. He said that Medical Mutual is giving a premium refund credit of 30% on our December invoice towards our medical, vision and dental premium due to the pandemic.
- Read a letter forwarded from Donna Tesar our Work Comp Coordinator. The letter is from the BWC stating that the village can expect a dividend return of \$277,316 in mid-December due to a \$5 billion dollar dividend return. Donna Tesar does an excellent job attending the meetings on behalf of the village and bringing her knowledge back to the departments, especially the Service, Fire and Police departments.
- Email from resident Steve Peine stating that the Service Department did a great job on our streets during today's storm. Kudos to them.

### POLICE CHIEF

- Chief Mead said that they paid the \$1,000 deductible to Carstar for the damage to the police cruiser caused by a juvenile who rammed the cruiser while breaking into Tom Lahiff's garage. We will go after reimbursement by court procedures. **MOTION: Mrs. Presot moved to pay \$1,000 to Carstar. Seconded by Mr. Lahiff Motion carries 5-0**
- During the hiring process we had twelve (12) polygraph tests done at \$190 each. **Total cost was \$2,280. Mr. Lasky moved to pay the costs. Seconded by Mr. Blados Motion carried -0**
- Chief Mead said they converted the basement office into a locker room for the female officers. Mrs. Presot moved to pay \$1,296.95 for four (4) lockers. Seconded by Mr. Walsh Motion carried 5-0
- Chief Mead thanked council for the three (3) new officers sworn in tonight and said there are two (2) additional officers to be sworn in at the January 5, 2021 meeting.
- Chief Mead also wanted to commend Ed and the Service Department for the phenomenal job they did over the last 24 hours. He said our Service Department is one of the best, bar none, in Cuyahoga County.
- We had four (4) officers retire in 2020. The three (3) sworn in tonight replaces three of the four. On January 5<sup>th</sup> we will replace the fourth retired officer and on December 26, 2020 we are losing another officer to a lateral transfer to another department. We will replace that officer with the fifth officer to be sworn in on Jan. 5, 2021.
- A few weeks ago, Officer Leahy observed a vehicle driving slowly through our village. He managed to pull up behind the vehicle as it entered our village parking lot. At this point a suspect ran from Springbrook to the waiting vehicle and jumped into the passenger side. Officer Leahy gave chase and the chase ended in Garfield Heights. He must have spooked them because nothing was stolen or broken into. **ANOTHER REMINDER TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLES LOCKED AND DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN THEM.**

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### FIRE CHIEF

- Chief Stefanko told council that L-49 needs an emergency repair /replacement of the siren system. Mechanic Florjancic will do the work. **MOTION: Mr. Blados moved to pay Sirennnet.com \$1,192.35 for a new Siren System for L-49. Seconded by Mrs. Presot Motion carried 5-0**
- Chief Stefanko said we have EMS State of Ohio money we need to use so he has ordered two (2) new AED's, thermometers, and pulse ox with cases to be reimbursed by the grant. **MOTION: Mr. Blados moved to pay PennCare \$3,369.90 for AED's, thermometers and pulse-ox machines. Seconded by Mrs. Presot Motion carried 5-0**
- Chief Stefanko updated council on COVID cases. Our department has been busy due to mutual aid and we are in great shape as far as PPE is concerned. Parma UH (as of yesterday) has 48 COVID cases in hospital, 14 in ICU (at capacity) and 34 going into step down. The ICU is at capacity and the hospital is opening another ICU to handle patients brought to the hospital. They expect the peak should hit in mid-January.
- Chief Stefanko also thanked the BHPD and Service Department for the collaborative efforts during the snow storm.

### SERVICE DIRECTOR

- Mr. Hatgas thanked the Service Department for the work they did with the Senior Grass Cutting program this year. He was a recipient of the program and was very pleased. He said they did a great job throughout the community.
- Kimble Refuse had a mishap with a window at the Community Center and he is working with their insurance and Kimble to get it rectified.
- Mr. Hatgas thanked his department for the great job they did over the last 24 hours with the snow storm also.
- Mayor Procuik asked if we are done vacuuming leaves and Mr. Hatgas said yes. They cleaned them up on Monday before the storm hit. Mayor Procuik said that after the snow melts, if residents have leaves down, they can bag them and put them in the garbage. If it comes to that we will put it out on the website and the marquee.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- The Senior Drive-thru in October and November had forty-five (45) participants and fifty (50) signed up for December.
- Project Hope Tree is moving along. The businesses and residents have been very generous and she thanked the MSC for their commitment to a donation.
- The Remembrance Celebration did not happen this year but the requested ornaments will be distributed soon.
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> will be Art-in-the-Park Zoom. Sign-ups are underway.
- Senior Snow Removal has sixty-two (62) participants. She feels he did a good job with the storm we had today. Councilman Blados asked if this is the third year of his three-year contract and Mrs. Guilfoyle said yes, it is.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

- The ICE 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is moving along
- Many new tenants along Hayes Dr. & Van Epps Rd. All the fire systems are being upgraded as the new tenants move in.

### RECREATION DIRECTOR

- Basketball is underway with practices beginning on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and games will commence on Jan. 4, 2021.

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- All the Recreation directors voted to hold the season but Dale abstained. Brooklyn Hts. doesn't have a home court and he doesn't feel that this is essential but he was outvoted. Our teams will practice at Cuyahoga Hts. Schools.

### LAW DIRECTOR

- No Report

### ENGINEER

- Mr. Henry thanked Thea and Aaron for their help in announcing the public hearing.
- Digger Construction has completed the connections to the homes on W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. One connection had to be made from the inside so Cleveland Water made the connection.
- Paving will begin on Friday (12-4) weather permitting.
- Independence has made repairs to the road at their end of E. Schaaf Road and left a 1 ½" drop in the pavement. They will complete the repairs in the spring and bring the road up to the level of our road. He asked that we remind our snow plow drivers to lift their blades at that point.

### CLERK / TREASURER

- The first R.I.T.A drop is \$232,837 which is slightly under our budget prediction. We will need about \$51k in the second drop to meet the budget prediction
- The audit is concluding. We have no significant issues requiring an exit conference but Mr. Frank chooses to have an exit conference as this is his first audit. All of council and Mayor Procuk will be invited to the ZOOM conference also.
- Dana will be working remotely from home during her illness and around her rest periods. We appreciate her working through this.
- We are hoping to close the month by the end of the week but it will probably be next week.
- Mayor Procuk said Dana will have to be tested prior to coming back into the building.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The county offered a Small Business Stabilization Funding grant of \$10,000 for businesses with under 25 employees. We could recommend one small business to apply for an we suggested J & L Body. They have submitted all the paperwork. They are awaiting a reply.
- J.V. Janitorial has purchased the building on Resource Rd. Their current building on Schaaf Road never even hit the market and it was sold. It will be a specialty auto repair shop for Porsche's only.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

- The first R.I.T.A drop of the month put Brooklyn Heights, for the first time ever, over \$6 million.
- We are 6% ahead of the 2019 collection.
- When the BWC money comes in, he would like council to consider putting it into a new account as opposed to dropping it into the general fund.
- He was on a legislative call where the state is waffling back and forth as to an extension of HB 197 until they can figure out what they are going to do with the remote workers as far as taxation.
- Working with Nicole at the county on the Master Plan

### MAYOR'S COURT

• Income for October	\$ 3,886.00
• State of Ohio	( 695.00)
• Indigent Driver & Alcohol	( 27.00)
• Reg. Enterprise Data Sharing System	( 80.00)
• BROOKLYN HEIGHTS	\$ 3,084.00

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- Met tonight to kickstart the 2021 budget plans
- Next meeting will be January 19, 2021 at 6 pm

**PARK AD HOC**

- Will meet on December 15, 2020 at 6:45 pm to discuss using some of the grant funding for the upper park improvements

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance 67-2020**: December Pay Ordinance

Sponsor: Mrs. Presot

Second: Mr. Lahiff

Yeas: Presot, Lahiff, Blados, Lasky, Walsh

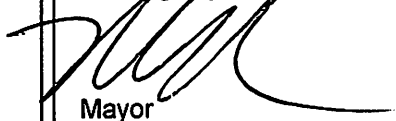
Nays: None

Ordinance 67-2020 is adopted 5-0

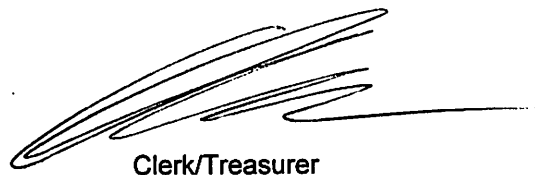
There being no further business to come before the council, it was moved by Mr. Lahiff and seconded by Mr. Blados that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: All

Meeting adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer