

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD October 15, 2019 20

A meeting of the Council of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on Oct. 15, 2019 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, Foote, Lasky, Presot & Walsh
	Mayor:	Procuk
	Clerk/Treasurer:	Frank
	Law Director:	Dowling
	Engineer:	Henry
	Police Chief:	Algeri
	Fire Chief:	Stefanko
	Service Director:	Hatgas
	Bldg. Commissioner:	Monaco
	Asst. Bldg. Comm.	Sonenstein
	Comm. Service Dir:	Guilfoyle
	Recreation Dir:	Kryznowek

MOTION: Mr. Foote moved to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2019 regular meeting of council as distributed. Second by Mrs. Presot. Motion carried 5-0

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mayor Procuk read a letter from Diane Maria sent to the 380 taxpayers in Brooklyn Heights that are not current with filing their Municipal Income Tax Returns. **attached**
- The Cuyahoga Heights Schools BEST Committee will attend the first meeting in November with their update. Mayor Procuk advised them that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th due to Election Day on the first Tuesday.
- The letter from the Brooklyn Heights Bargaining Unit will become part of these minutes. **attached**

AUDIENCE

- None

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Stefanko and Clerk/Treasurer Frank discussed setting up a fund to put money into for the village portion of the grants. As it turns out, FEMA will send us the funds and we will have thirty (30) days to spend it.
- Parma will front the funding for the regional Radios and we would reimburse Parma, but it appears that the county will pick up our portion of the radio cost.
- Chief Stefanko would like to purchase two (2) thermal imager cameras to replace the 13 year old cameras we currently use. The cost would be \$2,700 each and he has the funding available in his budget. The old cameras would be placed in the squads as back-ups. He asked that if council agreed an ordinance be drawn up for the next meeting.

CLERK / TREASURER

- Reminded council that, per our charter, the next regular meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, November 6th due to Election Day.
- Told council about a letter from KIMBLE asking for a rate increase of \$375.60 per month to make up for the hit they are taking on recycling. Council agreed to hold KIMBLE to our current contract pricing.
- RITA reports are ahead of the predictions

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD _____ October 15, 2019 _____ 20 _____

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **WAGE & SALARY:** met on Monday evening to discuss negotiations. Will go into Executive Session tonight.
- **PARK AD HOC:**
 - Mr. Foote said they will begin with the removal of the steps between pavilion 1 and the road. He will ask for help from the Men's Service Club for this project.
 - The committee also discussed the removal of the ice skating rink and the idea of a Nature Works grant was brought up.
 - The next meeting date is to be determined.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 73-2019 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CLERK TREASURER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND RELATED CONTRACTS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE BRIDGE INSPECTION SERVICES

Sponsor: Mrs. Presot

Second: Mr. Blados

Yeas: Presot, Blados, Foote, Lasky, Walsh

Nays: None

Ordinance 73-2019 is adopted 5-0

RESOLUTION 15-2019 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS TO JOIN IN WITH CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 20-26, 2019 AS STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK

Sponsor: Mr. Lasky

Second: Mr. Foote

Yeas: Lasky, Foote, Blados, Presot, Walsh

Nays: None

Resolution 15-2019 is adopted 5-0

MOTION: Mr. Lasky moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Wage & Salary meeting and negotiations.

Second by Mrs. Presot

Yeas: Lasky, Presot, Blados, Foote, Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

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

Yeas: All

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer

Mike Procuk

From: greg cingle <gcingle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019 10:02 AM
To: Mike Procuk; Aaron Frank
Subject: Re: non-filing letters mailed Brooklyn Heights

Aaron,

Good to see you working on the holiday!!

greg

On Monday, October 14, 2019, 09:46:05 AM EDT, Aaron Frank <Aaron.Frank@brooklynhts.org> wrote:

Excellent! Thanks for the email on this fine Columbus day :)

From: greg cingle [gcingle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Mike Procuk; Aaron Frank
Subject: Fw: non-filing letters mailed Brooklyn Heights

Mayor and Aaron,

Good morning.

Hope you both had a nice weekend.

Please see the below referenced email from Diane at RITA.

The delinquency program is underway.

Feel free to call and discuss.

greg

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Maria, Diane <dmaria@ritaohio.com>
To: gcingle@yahoo.com <gcingle@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dmitruk, April <ADmitruk@ritaohio.com>; UD_InternalMS <InternalMS@ritaohio.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019, 08:58:09 AM EDT
Subject: non-filing letters mailed Brooklyn Heights

Hello Greg,

Approximately 380 non-filer letters will be mailed today to taxpayers that neglected to file a municipal income tax return for your municipality.

If you have not already done so we strongly suggest you share the details of this program with your mayor and members of council as they may receive phone calls from residents who receive a non-filing letter.

Taxpayers can simply e-file returns at: www.ritaohio.com, mail or fax to RITA the documents listed on the non-filing letter.

If you are updating your website to publicize the delinquency program please promote e-filing the prior returns on line and post the mailing address and fax number listed below.

Reminder:

Should taxpayers provide any responsive documents directly to you (including W2s, schedules, completed returns or checks), you must submit those documents to RITA using only the following address or fax number:

Attn: Compliance Department 198

Regional Income Tax Agency

PO BOX 470538

Broadview Heights, OH 44147-0538 OR Faxing to: 440-922-3510

Please do not submit documents directly to any of RITA's offices, to any specific individual at RITA or to any address or fax number that you may use for other RITA correspondence as this will result in a delay in our processing of the documents and could also result in the taxpayer receiving an unnecessary subpoena.

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to your administration. If you have any questions please call or e-mail at your earliest convenience.

Diane Maria

Compliance Manager

440-922-3269

Fax 440-922-3509

Brooklyn Heights Police Department (Bargaining Unit Members)
345 Tuxedo Avenue
Brooklyn Heights, Ohio 44131

September 27, 2019

Brooklyn Heights Council Members and Safety Director/Mayor Procuk
345 Tuxedo Avenue
Brooklyn Heights, Ohio 44131

Dear Council Members and Safety Director/Mayor Procuk,

We are writing to you in regards to a posting made on September 27, 2019 advertising an ordinance meeting to be held on Tuesday October 1, 2019 concerning police chief testing and qualifications. We the bargaining unit take notice of the council meeting minutes and agendas. We want to address this very important matter from not only the bargaining unit perspective, but also a village-wide perspective. It is in the best interest of both the police department and also the village as a whole that the chief of police position remain one that is filled by current Brooklyn Heights supervisors.

While this is not a vacancy we anticipate happening before early 2020, we wanted to address this situation from our perspective now. Our police department is composed of four exceptionally trained and educated supervisors. The current supervisors have a collective 82 years of law enforcement experience. Three of the current supervisors are field training officers and have been instrumental in amending and implementing our training program as times evolve to best train new officers. Two of the current four supervisors have bachelor's degrees in criminal justice, which is a very crucial educational achievement and accolade for all law enforcement administrators to possess in today's workplace. In addition, these two supervisors also attended and completed the Police Executive Leadership Program (PELC), which is a rigorous criminal justice program that is the equivalent workload of attaining an undergraduate bachelor's degree. PELC involves extensive research into current law enforcement trends and best practices, interviewing local and state elected officials, writing daily journal entries, composing lengthy research papers that are peer reviewed and must meet stringent grading criteria, and extensive work into improving public speaking.

Brooklyn Heights is a village that prides itself on positive and personal community relations. While not all residents may know our officers by name, even though many do, they recognize us as the faces they see every day. From following school busses, responding to calls for service, greeting residents by name and with a handshake or wave as patrol their streets, and infinite casual counters that are not of a need-based nature but rather to make small talk and see how they and their families are doing. We strongly believe that appointing a current Brooklyn Heights supervisor to the position of police chief would speak strongly and quite favorably to the residents and our department rather than an individual who would lack all of this intangible experience to fill the top position in our department.

For the last 13 years, it has been a requirement to have at least an associate's degree or equivalent hours just to be eligible to take the police officer entrance examination. This is a requirement that, in part at least, serves to find the best available candidates for both patrol officers and eventually for said patrol officers to be promoted. To appoint someone to the highest rank in our police department that is not a current supervisor seems to diminish this very important requirement, and also leads to a "bottlenecking" or stagnancy if you will. Our department, when compared to many other suburbs and especially cities, is small in number and as a result, opportunities to advance are very limited. When these opportunities to arise, it should be left to our very highly qualified, capable, and enthusiastic officers and supervisors to fill.

Another important consideration when addressing filling a vacancy of the police chief position is finances. Continuing the process of filling the vacancy with current Brooklyn Heights supervisors would come at a cost far less than the costs that would be incurred should outside parties be able to test for the position. Administering a test for up to four individuals would be far less than the average turnout for such positions, which locally seem to number in the 20-30 range. That's a six to sevenfold increase in cost just to administer the initial testing.

All four supervisors either currently or previously are/were a part of raising their families in the village and/or attended Cuyahoga Heights Schools. We are well aware of what our residents and locally elected political powers expect from us. All four supervisors know how to effectively manage and lead our department, as we know the different people and personalities we work with and for. That only comes with working side by side with each other for "x" number of years. We are not a collection of supervisors who, once promoted, were satisfied. Rather, we are a group who consistently sought to better ourselves and our department thru continuing education. Our department, like most if not all other village departments, has always promoted from within and we do not see a reason to "reinvent the wheel" and deviate from past practice now.

We trust that as individuals and as a whole, council members and Safety Director/Mayor Procuik will do what is in the best interest of the village and our police department.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt. J. Conner #13
Ptl Chris Jearns #12
Ptl G. Brown #14
Ptl Jack Walkins #17
Ptl C. R. [unclear] #09
Sgt. [unclear] #36
Sgt. [unclear] #35
[unclear] #10
[unclear] #15
VERBAL COMMIT
J. COYNE
D. DERBIN