

# COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD March 24, 2020 20       

A meeting of the Council of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on March 24, 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:	
	Police Chief:	
	Fire Chief:	
	Service Director:	
	Bldg. Commissioner:	
	Asst. Bldg. Comm.	
	Comm. Service Dir:	Guilfoyle
	Recreation Dir:	
	Soccer Dir:	

**Note: Present: Mayor Procuk, Clerk/Treasurer Frank, Community Services Director Guilfoyle, Law Director Dowling and all five council members. Practicing Social Distancing with attendees spread throughout the council chambers away from their microphones.**

**MOTION: Mrs. Presot moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2020 regular meeting of council. Second by Mr. Walsh Motion carried 5-0**

### CORRESPONDENCE

- R.I.T.A., following the General Legislature mandates, has extended filing from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

### ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

**ORDINANCE 19-2020 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ENACTING UNCODIFIED REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYEE PAY AND FRINGE BENEFITS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE 2020 COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Sponsor: Mrs. Presot

Second: Mr. Blados

Yeas: Presot, Blados, Lahiff, Lasky, Walsh

Nays: None

Ordinance 19-2020 is adopted 5-0

- *Mayor Procuk has declared ALL Brooklyn Heights employees as essential to the safety, health and welfare of the operations of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, therefore, the following employees are working remotely from home:*
  1. Donna Tesar – Fire and Service
  2. Kari Baciak, Val Snyder and Dana Bundus – are set up to work from home but will be required to rotate days in the office. One will be present in the office from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily. They will not be accepting payments on citations or building requests. No hall reservations or park reservations will be taken during this period.

# COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD \_\_\_\_\_ March 24, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Nino & Howard will do inspections as required and under the rule of the State of Ohio Building Commissioner. They will not go into residential homes and they are both set up to work remotely from home.
4. Thea Guilfoyle, Donna and Jane Hlatky - Community Services – Thea will go into the office as necessary.
5. Clerk / Treasurer Aaron Frank – will go into the office if necessary but will work daily from home.
6. Mayor Procuk
  - Minimizing employee contact, Mayor Procuk has order the Fire Department closed to the public and only on duty personnel will be allowed in the department.
  - The Service Department is working with ONE employee in a truck. The breakroom has been shut down and Mayor Procuk may decide to rotate crews to ensure safety.
  - Recreation Director and Special Projects are essential and we will revisit as times change.
  - Contract Employees – Engineer, Law Director and Building Inspectors will continue to work as needed.
  - Council, Boards, Clerk-Treasurer and Sunshine – if a board absolutely has to meet then they will but the meeting will be conducted following the social distancing and make sure that the public has the opportunity to have their words heard.
  - Mayor Procuk has the ability to place employees on Administrative Paid Leave and he will do that if necessary, between now and April 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - We are doing our best to keep everyone informed with the truth by utilizing the back of the agendas. Please watch out for SCAMS.
  - Thea Guilfoyle has resurrected the Golden Outlook and mailed 223 copies out to those deemed to be senior citizens in our village. It contains useful information and some ways to entertain themselves. Mayor Procuk thanked Mrs. Guilfoyle for her dedication to the seniors of our village.
  - Because the Breeze is printed in the office, they will do a one (1) page edition for April with the pertinent information suspending the activities. Mrs. Guilfoyle asked if she could add pages and Mayor Procuk said they did not want the handling to be extensive and said she could utilize social media. She said that, with permission from Mayor Procuk and Park Board Pres. Mark Lasky, that she would take on this project.
  - Chief Stefanko held a training class in council chambers last night with the class limited to ten (10) members. The class was conducted by UH instructor Terry Dougan. The department has sufficient PPE supplies but thermometers are in short supply. Asst. Chief Lasky supplied the Municipal building with one from Parma Fire which was used tonight. As Parma Chief, he has shared the large city information with us to keep us informed.
  - Mayor Procuk has had no complaints from the residents.
  - He is in constant contact with Superintendent Tom Evans
  - Golf Courses are open – one (1) person to a cart, removed all pins, no groups allowed in to pay and the first two (2) hours are limited to senior citizens
  - Mr. Lahiff asked if they are to stay home how can they be out golfing and Mayor Procuk said that the government allows for grocery shopping, golfing, walking (keeping social distancing), just no congregating in groups.

Mr. Walsh asked about the voucher program for senior grass cutting. He would like to see council move forward with this program.

There was much discussion on this subject and Mrs. Guilfoyle tried to explain that there were forty (40) seniors on the program last year and seven (7) of them were on the HEAP program. The cost to the senior was \$275 and \$110 to the HEAP participants. She feels that if we go with the Voucher program it will be a substantial cost increase to the senior because they would not be getting the "group plan" discount.

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HELD \_\_\_\_\_ March 24, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Lahiff doesn't agree saying that the contractor would still charge the same price to the individual as he would charge to the village.

Mrs. Guilfoyle said that the seniors don't know about a voucher system and that they probably would not be able to come up with the money to pay each time the grass is cut.

Mr. Lasky would like the voucher system and Mr. Walsh wants the voucher system if he can't get Mr. Lasky or Mr. Lahiff to change their vote from Lader Landscaping to All Pro Landscaping.

Mr. Walsh wants All Pro for 2020 and decides on a voucher for 2021.

Mr. Blados said council needs to work together on this and he doesn't want to see our seniors hurt. Mayor Procuk said their backs are up against a wall to get this settled because the grass cutting is to begin in April and the ordinances will be on the April 7<sup>th</sup> council agenda. He asked what dollar amount they would put on the voucher.

Mr. Lahiff said that Mr. Lasky asked Mr. (Matt) Lader, last week if he would charge the individual the same price on the voucher system and he said he would.

Mr. Blados said it is in the best interest of our seniors to move forward, doing what we had in the past, and consider putting a voucher system in place for 2021.

Mr. Walsh said he would not vote for Lader so either Mr. Lasky or Mr. Lahiff have to change their vote to All Pro or they agree to using a voucher system and it has to be decided tonight so Mrs. Guilfoyle can inform the seniors of the change in the program.

Both Mr. Lasky and Mr. Lahiff said they are firm on their vote.

Mr. Walsh said that he then wants the voucher system and Mrs. Presot said she does not want it because many of the seniors can't afford the extra it will cost them.

Mayor Procuk then asked again what the dollar amount of the voucher would be.

Mrs. Presot tried to explain that, if council give the senior on HEAP \$100 and the contractor charges (the village rate of) \$400, the senior will still have to come up with \$300...and they are splitting their meds to save money. There will be several lawns uncut.

Mr. Lahiff said the funding is set at \$6,000 so the voucher given would depend on how many people sign-up. He also said that the senior has the opportunity to hire a high-schooler.

Mrs. Presot said that many of the seniors don't have husbands or family members to protect them from getting screwed by contractors and her job is to protect them. The way to do this is by having a middle man (Mrs. Guilfoyle / Community Services) to go to and SHE'S BEEN DOING A DAMN FINE JOB OF HANDLING IT UP TO NOW and we are now sending them out and saying good luck, instead of costing you \$100 it could cost you upwards of \$300 - \$400 and that's unfortunate.

Mr. Walsh again asked Mr. Lasky and Mr. Lahiff if they would change their vote and Mr. Lasky asked him why the others don't change their vote? Mr. Walsh said that the product they would be giving to the seniors is not good.

Mr. Lasky said that we need to educate them on what options are available to them and Mr. Blados said That right now the seniors are being told to stay home and not to go for groceries and we're telling them to start negotiating it the middle of this, we're putting them in harm's way. Why can't we get together, make a contract and work on the voucher program this summer.

Mayor Procuk asked Mr. Dowling if the ordinances could be drafted in such a manner that both contractors make good on their bids with a minimum / maximum so we can control our cost? He will then task Mrs. Guilfoyle with working with the seniors to choose "A or B".

Mr. Lasky asked if we could have a "C" option of choosing their own contractor and giving them a voucher.

Mr. Lahiff said it would look like this:

1. All Pro Landscaping.....senior pays \$275.....village pays \$125
2. Lader Landscaping ..... senior pays \$275.....village pay \$125
3. Select your own landscaper and receive a voucher .... *Amount to be determined*

Mr. Blados said that this will give them the data / numbers they need to move forward to a full voucher program next year.

Mr. Dowling said he will need a dollar figure to draw up an ordinance.

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Mayor Procuik asked each council member how their place of business is handling the government orders.

- Blados: School is shut down, receiving full pay
- Lahiff: Plain Dealer is delivering papers, picks up extra security jobs
- Lasky: some employees are working from home and documenting their work, others are taking sick leave, personal time or vacation
- Walsh: plumbing supply is considered essential so he is working daily. Locked down to the public
- Dowling: Courts are shut down, rotating personnel
- Frank: Landscaping is considered essential under Sanitary Services, personnel to return to work on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Asst. Chief Lasky (Parma Fire Chief) said that you are NOT contagious until 48 to 72 hours after the symptoms appear. It is not necessary to keep people at home without the symptoms. Brooklyn Heights has had two calls. The symptoms are: fever, sore throat and respiratory distress. The virus numbers are going up. He said he has had a few calls asking if their business is essential.

Mayor Procuik said we are not declaring any business in Brooklyn Heights as essential or not. He is NOT sending our police department out to enforce the Ohio Department of Health rules as they are too vague. It's not as bad as we think if we need to do all they are telling us to do.

Mr. Frank asked Chief Lasky, in his opinion, are we doing everything we need to do and he replied "NO". HE feels all of our jobs here are essential and the employees should be here working. He would close the upstairs down and have the girls work because they are essential jobs. He is not in favor the rotation of Dana & Val nor is he happy that Donna is not in the office. We need cross-training because anyone can get sick so someone should be able to step into the job and do it.

It was determined to make the voucher amount \$85 and have Jerry Dowling prepare an ordinance for the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will give the senior citizen three (3) options for grass cutting.

Mr. Frank asked if we are going to continue putting our money in the accounts as we have been and the answer is yes.

The current employee working from home situation will be reassessed on April 6<sup>th</sup> and the State of Ohio guidelines will be followed.

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

Yeas: All

Meeting adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer