

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 2025**

A. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. Special Council meeting minutes held on December 4, 2024.
2. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on December 3, 2024.
3. Regular Council meeting minutes held on December 3, 2024.

D. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Dufour

Board of Zoning Appeals - Mencini

Finance Committee - Scott

Legislative Committee - Scott

Parks & Recreation - McCorkle

Planning Committee - Poindexter

Safety Committee - Troyer

Service Committee - Roberts

E. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Southwest General Health Center Trustee, Mencini

Berea Board of Education Representative, McCorkle.

Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Dufour

F. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

G. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:

H. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

**I. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS,
COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**

**J. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL
APPROVAL: (INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):**

K. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:

L. REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

M. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: (FIRST READING):

N. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11450-2024
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 351.03 OF THE BROOK PARK
CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED 'PROHIBITED STANDING OR
PARKING PLACES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by
Councilman Dufour.

O. THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

P. ADJOURNMENT:

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Salvatore at 7:31 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

TROYER, ROBERTS, POINDEXTER, MENCINI, McCORKLE, SCOTT

Also in attendance were Mayor Orcutt, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director McGann, Recreation Director Wetmore, Service Director Beyer and Human Resources Commissioner Rednour. Councilman Dufour excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. Special Council meeting minutes held on December 4, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Roberts, supported by Mr. Mencini, to approve as printed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Roberts, Mencini, McCorkle, Scott, Poindexter

NAYS: Troyer

2. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on December 3, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Roberts, supported by Mr. McCorkle, to approve as printed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Roberts, McCorkle, Scott, Mencini, Poindexter

NAYS: Troyer.

3. Regular Council meeting minutes held on December 3, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. McCorkle, to approve as printed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, McCorkle, Scott, Roberts, Poindexter

NAYS: Troyer.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Co-Chairman, Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported Hopkins Airport is down in passengers due to not being a hub, people are either leaving or arriving at the airport.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported the board met on January 6th and approved Mr. Barr as Vice-Chairman. There were two (2) variances on the agenda; one (1) for digital signage at 14601 Snow Road - approved; second (2) a variance for more smoke and vape products at 13375 Snow Road - denied. Next meeting February 3rd.

Finance Committee - Scott

Mr. Scott reported Finance committee has nothing on tonight's agenda. The Board of Control met twice since last meeting. First (1st) being on December 23rd with six (6) items on agenda; three largest being City of Brook Park negotiations - \$3,439.10; Milano Monuments for signage at City Hall, Library and Athletic ballfield - \$49,890.00 and Holland Road pavement repairs - \$421,157.48. On January 7th there were 39 items on agenda with three (3) largest being Brook Park recreation center project, (second draw) - \$355,544.94; City of Strongsville dispatch services \$706,749.00 and road salt - \$125,000.00.

Legislative Committee - Scott

Mr. Scott reported Legislative committee has one (1) item on agenda.

Reports of standing committees: cont.

Parks & Recreation - McCorkle

Mr. McCorkle reported high school and grades one through eight basketball and cheer are underway. Spring volleyball registrations are open ending on January 14th.

Planning Committee - Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter reported the commission met yesterday with three (3) items on the agenda. First (1st) being the appointment of Vice-Chairman, Holly Klingler. Second (2nd) aesthetic approval of a second (2nd) automatic teller machine (ATM) and canopy over the Huntington Bank ATM at Brookgate Shopping Center and thirdly was the approval of plans for the demolition of the (former) BP gas station at Snow and Smith Roads intersection.

Safety Committee - Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported there is a piece of legislation in Safety committee that should be placed in Legislative committee per Charter. Mr. Salvatore disagreed. Mr. Troyer mentioned it is illegal to put snow, grass, leaves, etc. in the street, very dangerous. With the long upcoming cold spell keep an eye on all (water) pipes.

Service Committee - Roberts

Mr. Roberts reported if a pothole is seen call Councilmembers or service department directly.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Southwest General Health Center Trustee, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported Southwest's mission is passion, quality and the focus to be leading health system for all Southwest communities. Southwest is implementing a pre-visit registration automation program; with use of phones and tablets. To date 3,707 have used this new system with a 93% client satisfaction. Managed care is finalizing contracts with Anthem and Cigna and have eliminated the contract with Humana.

Berea Board of Education Representative, McCorkle

Mr. McCorkle stated no report, next meeting Monday, January 13th. Reminded school is back in session watch for children and buses.

Technology & Innovation Council Co-Representative, Poindexter

No report, next meeting January 15th.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Orcutt reported very excited about 2025 and the continuing recovery from the tornado. At the recreation center will be battling roof leaks, due to weather conditions, that will continue into next year. As mentioned, big Planning Commission meeting last night, the Smith and Snow area is Brook Park's

Reports and communications from the Mayor: cont.

downtown area and the demolition of the BP gas station lead by the city's service director will make a great difference to the area. Update with the Cleveland Browns there are three (3) meetings schedule this week and Service Director Beyer continues to work with the State of Ohio on the necessary public utilities. Huge step forward on New Year's Eve with the announcement of the Haslam Group purchasing 176 acres in Brook Park, that continues to move along. Very positive meeting in Washington D.C. meeting with multiple economic groups and Congressman, Max Miller pitching Blue Abyss.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini thanked Mayor Orcutt for the early budget being given to Council for review. With an item on the Board of Control for central dispatch services that is a big number. Maybe in the past should have taken a harder look at dispatch services the way it is now maybe would have changed my mind. Always like having the dispatchers at the police station for in-person and phone assistance. Any thoughts on bringing dispatch back to the city?

Mayor Orcutt responded central dispatch was in 2017 and since that time the finance director has informed me that operations have increased over 30% in the last five (5) years. Being a part of Strongsville Central Dispatch and working out of that city's IT department handcuffs the city with having to share that price. Do agree that a hard look should be taken for dispatch being brought back to the city. As with anything a sweet deal is given for the first (1st) five (5) years and then prices start to increase every year. At that time, there were several different tough issues that appeared before Council with some decisions being yes and some being no, think a good job was done at the time.

Mr. Poindexter agreed with Mayor Orcutt on bringing back dispatch services to the city. Question is about the Cleveland Browns has there been any discussion or dialogue if the City of Cleveland wins the lawsuit of the Art Model law? Is there a plan B from the Haslam Group or is that their only focus?

Mayor Orcutt responded the only focus is bringing the Cleveland Brown to Brook Park. Within their contract they have with DRAW there are things that must be done. The focus is to build the dome stadium, apartments, restaurants team shop and so forth. If this doesn't go through most likely (the property) will go back to Westin Group for redevelopment. My concern is with how long this is taking because the city isn't making any money on that property, but the city hasn't made any money on that property since 2012.

Mr. Poindexter commented want to be ready, just in case.

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

Mayor Orcutt commented the City of Cleveland doesn't want to lose a business just as the City of Brook Park wouldn't want to lose a business. The county executive has his opinion that the stadium should stay in the City of Cleveland and think the county executive is being financially responsible; due to this project being county-funded. Historically, stadiums and public funding usually doesn't work out for that municipality but, at the same time, could set a new precedence that this may work.

Mr. Poindexter commented don't know how the City of Brook Park and the City of Cleveland loses on this deal.

Mr. Troyer stated with dispatch, at that time, Council was told the city would lose money and there was no other choice; that was with the City of Parma that didn't last long. Am on board with bringing dispatch back once the legislation and numbers are seen. With the natatorium roof there is still tape and barriers up there; is the natatorium roof complete?

Mayor Orcutt responded would say between 90% to 95% complete and the contractors are waiting for the weather. Will say with the city finances and being very responsible the city is able to get things done as well as the tornado coming through. Will probably see remnants of the tornado ten (10) years from now.

Mr. Troyer continued tornado could have been a help to the city.

Mayor Orcutt interjected the city lost the 2024 Sidewalk Program.

Mr. Troyer commented five (5) roofs will be getting done that has been concerns for many years. With the budget 98% in agreement and thank you for getting the budget early.

Mayor Orcutt responded two (2) things with the budget, first (1st) would like to thank Council for speaking on what is important to the constituents. Secondly, dispatch is very important and the estimated cost is \$1 million-dollars to operate with \$750,000.00 being for the personnel portion of that cost. The other \$250,000.00 can be compared to the vehicle acquisition funds recently created. Having a need to place \$250,000.00 in that fund every year for new hardware, software, radios, monitors and things of that nature. If you're going to spend that kind of money let's make this the most efficient. The City of Strongsville does a good job with central dispatch and think they would give it up as of yesterday. Also, to bring dispatch back to the city need to talk about the overall of the safety building, as a whole.

Questions to the Mayor: cont.

Mr. Troyer mentioned with putting the money away always wanted to do for each department for their needs and wants. Would be nice for Council to have a rundown of all vehicles and apparatuses the city has.

Mayor Orcutt commented that can be provided, once updated with the new purchases.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**Human Resources Commissioner Rednour**

Mr. Rednour reported health care costs for this year is at 7% which is down from the previous year of 8.5%. The city is doing well with health care and this will be the last year for the consortium; also doing well with the six-year (6) contract with all city unions.

Service Director Beyer

Mr. Beyer reported bulk pickup is next week on regular rubbish day. The snow plowing schedule is main streets are done first (1st); i.e. Snow, Smith, West 130th and State Route 237. Then the secondary streets get done i.e. Hummel, Holland, Sylvia followed with the residential streets. Any damage to tree lawns please report to the service department for repair, seeding and topsoil in the spring. According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) 12 (state) snow plow trucks have been struck either due to distracted motorists or following too close; give all snow plow truck room. Beside plowing service crews will be patching potholes if any are seen call the service department. To date, there are two (2) water main breaks on Kathleen and Doris Drives. If a water main break is seen that has no flags around it report it to the service department so Cleveland Water can be notified. With the former BP gas station demolition most recent activity has been the Mayor, myself and economic development commissioner getting in touch with the utility companies that served the gas station when open.

Recreation Director Wetmore

Mr. Wetmore reported the month of January has many new programs i.e. art class, music and movement; Irish step-dance and Silver Sneakers ability class. With the new year the recreation center will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 2025 planning is underway with Easter event, concerts and Home Days. The Daddy-Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, February 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with 75 people already signed up. Registration for baseball and softball will open on February 1st.

Finance Director McGann

Mr. McGann reported the department is wrapping up fiscal year 2024 and hope to have reports online by end of week. Year-to-date there were 539 refunds totaling \$731,000.00 that is on par with last year of \$739,000.00.

Law Director Horvath

No report.

Questions:

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Beyer Christmas trees will be picked up on bulk day?

Mr. Beyer responded correct, during bulk week, have had third (3rd) shift crews picking up trees.

Mr. Mencini stated to Mr. Beyer don't want any snow in the street and strive for that. Have received calls from seniors about contractors not being there to plow their driveways and they hire a third person. Any thoughts on that when a lot of snow falls and contractors are not showing up. Also, the city strives that residents not shovel or blow snow in the street, correct?

Mr. Beyer responded don't see that done by plow drivers there is nothing worse than for a route driver to clear the street and resident(s) blow the snow into the middle of the street, making it look like the plow driver wasn't there. Most plow drivers/contractors will put the snow on the tree lawn.

Mr. Mencini to Mr. Wetmore had games on Thursday and Saturday going very well. With the recent incident on Saturday that Mr. McCorkle and I saw was handled by you before it could escalate.

Mr. Wetmore thanked both Councilmembers' Mencini and McCorkle for their assistance with the recent incident at a basketball game.

Mr. Troyer thanked Mr. McGann for getting the budget to Council so early. To Mr. Beyer was notified of a pothole on Dale Drive early afternoon and was resolved same day. Is there an email for potholes for residents?

Mr. Beyer stated with the one (1) from yesterday don't understand going to social media. The one (1) yesterday of that magnitude was a hazard and needed to be relayed as soon as possible, prior to any damage. The plows are rough on the roads and an email can be sent to myself or if there is a pothole that needs to be relayed to myself or dispatch. A work order is for other things but if there is a pothole that can do damage or harm, such as the one yesterday, please contact the department as soon as possible to get the issue resolved.

Mr. Salvatore stated have received compliments of the way the roads have been handled, not only from residents but motorists passing through calling me on how does Brook Park do that? Please pass onto the plow crews they're doing a great job.

Mr. Beyer thanked Mr. Salvatore and stated hats off to the plow drivers and as Mr. Santiago says it's all about the timing and having all hands on deck, the

Questions to the directors: cont.

department knows it. There are a new employees learning the routes for plowing and doing a great job, will relay the message.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS, AND VERBAL APPROVAL: (INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION):

Verbal Approval:

1. Boxcast 12-month payment for livestreaming - \$2,388.00.

Motion by Mr. Poindexter, supported by Mr. Mencini, to verbally approve.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Poindexter, Mencini, McCorkle, Scott, Troyer, Roberts

NAYS: Unanimous.

New Legislation:

1. An Ordinance to provide for the Appropriations of the City of Brook Park, State of Ohio for fiscal year ending December 31, 2025. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt. Finance Committee

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Mencini, to move to letter M, first reading.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Scott, Mencini, McCorkle, Troyer, Roberts, Poindexter

NAYS: Unanimous.

Mr. Salvatore stated that will appear under M-2 as Ordinance No. 11453-2025.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: (FIRST READING):

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11452-2025
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, WITH NEOGOV FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND PAYROLL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE AND RELATED SERVICES FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED THREE YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mr. Salvatore stated Ordinance No. 11452-2025 has had its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 11453-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Mr. Salvatore stated Ordinance No. 11453-2025 has had its first reading.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. ORDINANCE NO. 11450-2024
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 351.03 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED 'PROHIBITED STANDING OR PARKING PLACES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Dufour.

Mr. Troyer stated was hoping to have this at a Caucus meeting to make amendments of no parking on front lawn. This legislation helps the person reading this piece of legislation and not the entire code.

Mr. Salvatore stated Ordinance No. 11450-2024 has had its second reading.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to place Ordinance No. 11450-2024 on next week's Caucus agenda.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Mencini, McCorkle, Roberts, Poindexter
NAYS: Scott.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. McCorkle, to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, McCorkle, Scott, Troyer, Roberts, Poindexter
NAYS: Unanimous.

Council President Salvatore declared this meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Carol Johnson
Carol Johnson
Clerk of Council

APPROVED February 4, 2025

THESE MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY BROOK PARK CITY COUNCIL ARE A SYNOPSIS, NOT TRANSCRIBED IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ALTHOUGH ACCURATE.