

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
7:30 P.M.

- A. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:
 - 1. CAUCUS PRIOR TO MEETING MINUTES HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2024.
 - 2. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2024.
- D. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:
 - Aviation & Environmental Committee - Dufour
 - Board of Zoning Appeals - Mencini
 - Finance Committee - Scott
 - Legislative Committee - Scott
 - Parks & Recreation Committee - 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:

1. Planning Commission Appointments:

- Eric F. Mutschler
- Randy Wendling

L. REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

M. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING

N. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. ORD. NO. 11452-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT, 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.

2. ORD. NO. 11453-2025

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING **DECEMBER 31, 2025.**

O. THIRD 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.

P. ADJOURNMENT:

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Salvatore at 7:30 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

TROYER, ROBERTS, DUFOUR, MENCINI, McCORKLE, SCOTT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:

1. Caucus Prior to meeting minutes held on December 17, 2024.
2. Regular Council meeting minutes held on December 17, 2024.

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

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

NAYS: Troyer

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Aviation & Environmental Committee - Dufour

Mr. Dufour reported Cleveland Hopkins Airport welcomed 763 guests in December leaving an 8.4% airline reduction. In November, the airport dropped 11% compared to 2023 due to Spirit Airlines leaving mostly 93,894 empty seats. Spirit filed for bankruptcy protection in November and IS looking to reboot and come back stronger. Spirit suspended routes recently from Cleveland to Orlando, Atlanta, Miami, Las Vegas and Los Angeles; leaving one (1) route from Cleveland to Fort Lauderdale; expects to come out of bankruptcy first quarter (1/4) of 2025. United Airlines seated over 25,000 or 9.7%; American seated 19,000 and Air Canada suspended routes until Spring, 2025. Frontier added 22,500 seats or 11% increase and Delta added 8,685 seats; those gains did not overset the overall losses. So airline seat prices continued to rise in October, November and December, compared to 2023 and 2024. It was noted that declines in certain airlines makes it harder to achieve passenger levels and are working with airline partners to reverse this trend adding that Cleveland Hopkins Airport continues to remain strong.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported next meeting will be held on February 3rd.

Finance Committee - Scott

Mr. Scott reported Finance committee has two (2) items on agenda. The Board of Control met on January 9th with 45 items on the agenda; three largest being fourth (4th) year of a five-year (5) lease for a rubbish truck - \$52,609.83; third-year (3rd) of a five-year (5) lease for an ambulance and dump truck -

Reports of standing committees:

Finance Committee - Chairman, Scott: cont.

\$108,492.25 and second-year (2nd) lease of an eight-year (8) lease for a pumper truck, second-year lease of a three-year lease for a police vehicle and recycling truck - \$196,136.26. The Board of Control met earlier today with 13 items on agenda three largest being City of Brook Park Vs City of Cleveland lawsuit services through October 31, 2024 - \$33,829.50; November 30, 2024 services - \$64,348.75 and the Division of Water annual fee usage - \$31,841.68.

Legislative Committee - Scott

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

Parks & Recreation Committee - McCorkle

Mr. McCorkle reported new programs for 2025 is an art class; additional Silver Sneakers and Music and Movement classes. Basketball and Cheerleading are underway with good turnouts. Sign-ups will begin shortly for Spring Baseball, Softball and Volleyball and the next meeting is February 13th.

Planning Committee - Co-Chairman, McCorkle

No report.

Safety Committee - Troyer

Mr. Troyer reported if using space heaters do not use extension cords or run them under carpets or rugs.

Service Committee - Roberts

Mr. Roberts reported give the snow plows room to plow the streets, won't win the battle.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Southwest General Health Center Trustee, Mencini

Mr. Mencini reported LifeWorks is a rehabilitation and fitness facility celebrating 25-years operation. LifeWorks was also named from MXMetrics 2024 as the location of excellence award winner for providing outstanding services in the field of fitness and rehabilitation. Congratulations, to a number of Southwest physicians that were recognized in Cleveland Magazine on the best doctors' list; selected from various physicians of Northeast Ohio.

Berea Board of Education Representative, McCorkle.

Mr. McCorkle reported new officers on the board are President, Cori Farris and Vice-President, Rick Mack. The fifth (5th) teacher has announced retirement at the end of school year. The financial and treasurer reports are solid meaning no levies in the future. There was discussion of a program called Life-Wise allowing students to leave during school hours for religious reasons which was limited to one (1) day a week for one (1) hour only during lunch and recess, still being worked through. Next meeting will be held February 10th.

Technology & Innovation Council Representative, Dufour

Mr. Dufour reported the technology has new members and are having continued discussions on the recreation center sound system and public safety in city parks. Next meeting will be held on February 12th.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION:

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Orcutt reported the city had very good news this past month, shout out to County Commissioner Ronayne and County Council President Miller, for assistance and approval of three (3) grants this past month for the following: First (1st) grant for Carpenter Park playground and improvements - \$50,000.00; Kennedy Park American Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp, handicapped parking and parking lot resurfacing improvements - \$70,000.00 grant and a third (3rd) grant for road repairs to Smith Road - \$92,500.00. Another shout out to Congressman, Max Miller and former representative Sherrod Brown for increased fund at NASA Glenn Research Center in Brook Park. Overall, the NASA budget has been decreased by two-percent (2%) but spending for Brook Park has increased reaching \$1.3 billion-dollars in spending. The Blue Abyss Space-Act contract is signed between Blue Abyss and NASA Glenn that can be utilized, as a tool for future investors, for the \$250 million-dollar project. Met with the International Carpenters Union, that represents over 500,000 members in both United States and Canada, as well Ohio delegates to present the Cleveland Browns domed stadium project, good question/answer period and this project will continue to move forward.

Questions:

Mr. Mencini stated to Mayor Orcutt with the cold and snowy weather, received two (2) phone calls from residents regarding safety and service departments responding very well to issues.

Mr. Salvatore commented to Mayor Orcutt impressive few weeks and like what was said in report.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

Law Director Horvath

Madam Horvath reported on the lawsuit of City of Brook Park Vs City of Cleveland and City of Brook Park was scheduled to begin a week trial on January 13th. Unfortunately, there was a criminal matter that took precedence bumping the case bumped for two (2) days. Meeting with the judge the case was moved to March 3rd, 4th and 5th and am also looking at three (3) days in late March or early April and go forward from then; during those three (3) days hope to present the city's case in its entirety.

Reports and communications from departments, commissions and other public officials: cont.

City Engineer Piatak

Mr. Piatak reported due to inclement weather the recreation center roof project and Holland Road project has been suspended. Currently, working in the office on the Sheldon Road Bridge Project, funded by the Northeast Ohio Sewer District (NEORS) and the Wengler Drive basin design project.

Finance Director McGann

Mr. McGann reported finance and tax departments have no report.

Recreation Director Wetmore

Mr. Wetmore reported the recreation center is a warming center and due to frigid temperatures senior club was cancelled today. As mentioned, new programs rolling out in 2025 are Music and Movement, Silver Sneakers Stability and Irish step-dances; additional programs will be added throughout the year. The Daddy-Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, February 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and planning for 2025 special events are underway. The winter months bring dirt and grime into the building and recreations staff is trying to keep up with the floors. Registrations for baseball and softball opens up on February 1st.

Service Director Beyer

Mr. Beyer thanked Mr. Roberts for the comment to give the snow plows room and reported when snow exceeds two-inches (2") or more the parking ban goes into effect. The service yard is open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting; the past two (2) Saturdays the yard was closed due to snow. Also, this past Saturday the yard closed early due to snow and will try to get notice out quicker. This is a safety issue so that residents are not in the yard with snow plow drivers coming in and out. Cleveland Water has notified the department that there are two (2) active water breaks in the city and over 200+ in the entire service area.

Human Resources Rednour

No report.

Questions'

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Piatak with the Sheldon Road bridge raising is there any involvement with the MetroParks?

Mr. Piatak responded the MetroParks is an engaged stakeholder but there are no provisions for a trail under the bridge; possibly alongside.

Mr. Dufour thanked Mr. Beyer and service crews for the round-the-clock hard work keeping roads clear and residents safe.

Mr. Mencini thanked Madam Horvath for the recent meeting. With the water breaks and the constant running of water not much can be done, except put salt down.

Questions to the directors: cont.

Mr. Beyer responded the purpose for salt to be put down is for traction, when it's this cold. The city has a good relationship with Cleveland Water and they would prefer the weather to be cold constantly, instead of freeze-thaw which causes more water breaks.

Mr. Mencini continued to Mr. Wetmore Saturday basketball is going well, there has been a few instances and want to thank you on quickly resolving a recent instance. The recreation staff are doing a good job with programs and keeping the building clean.

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

Verbal Approval:

1. NORTHEAST OHIO CITY COUNCIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$400.00.

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

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

New Legislation:

1. An Ordinance authorizing the consulting engineer to prepare plans and specifications and bid documents and the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract(s) for the Sylvania Drive and Fry Road reconstruction project(s) and declaring an emergency. Introduced by Mayor Orcutt.

Service committee.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS:

Mayor Orcutt thanked former Planning Commissioner, Gloria Sensel, for her dedicated service on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Troyer stated in agreement with both candidates on agenda, let's move forward.

Mr. Mencini concurred with Mayor Orcutt's comments on Mrs. Sensel and the new appointments will do a good job.

Appointments - Planning Commission:

1. Eric F. Mutschier - New

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Roberts, to appoint.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

2. Randy Wendling - Reappointment

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Dufour, to appoint.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER:

Albert Wolf
5850 Wengler Drive

Mr. Wolf expressed kudos on the many great projects that have come to the city, going on in the city and future projects.

Lou Modic
14399 Fayette Blvd.

Mr. Modic expressed concerns with new laws put in place by the State of Ohio governor regarding OVI's and drunk driving as well as House Bill 77 regarding drone operations.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Troyer, to address the audience.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

Mr. Mencini thanked Mr. Wolf for the nice comments, very nice to hear. To Mr. Modic in the past Mr. Troyer brought drones needing to be regulated.

Mr. Troyer stated to Mr. Wolf many things have been done but some projects take a long time. To Mr. Modic thank you for comments on drones.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: (FIRST READING):

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

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.

Motion by Mr. Dufour, supported by Mr. Mencini, to suspend.

Mr. Troyer asked if there is an urgent need for this?

Mr. McGann responded would like to implement as soon as possible, implementation time takes approximately six (6) months.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Dufour, supported by Mr. Roberts, to adopt.

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

NAYS: Troyer. Ordinance No. 11452-2025, has passed under suspension of the rules. Adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions: cont.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 11453-32025

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.

Motion by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Dufour, to suspend.

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

NAYS: Troyer.

Mr. Troyer stated would like to amend section two (2) to include the attached exhibits A - 2025 Budget; B - Actual/Estimated Revenue; C - 2025 three-year appropriations and disbursements; E - 2025 Roads Program cost estimates; F - 2025 key budget points and G - Capital Improvements.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Mencini, to memorialize the attachments to section two (2).

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

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

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 11450-2025

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.

Motion by Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. McCorkle, to adopt.

Mr. Troyer stated have brought this up before and think it's important as amendment to number 18. In any individual parking space designated for handicapped parking unless the vehicle bears a valid parking permit for handicapped persons and is being driven by or used at the time for transportation of handicapped person. The penalty starts as a minor misdemeanor. Mr. Troyer read section(s) of code section 351.04(f) into the record and stated this would be a \$250.00 fine. If this is included in 351.03 changes to a minor misdemeanor causing conflicting ordinances being stepped up. Suggested changing number 18 to the way it formerly read and add subsection 351.04(f).

Mr. Mencini stated the police chief made good points of some of this being already on the books and is enforced. The police department gets the phone calls on these issues and would bring forward if this was to be abused.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, to amend number 18 to read 'in any parking reserved for handicapped persons could put see or per section 351.04 (f) current handicapped parking ordinance. **Lack of second**

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

NAYS: Troyer. Ordinance No. 11450-2025, has passed under third reading. Adopted

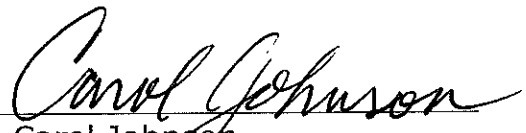
There being no further business to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mr. Roberts, to adjourn.

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

NAYS: Unanimous.

Council President Salvatore declared this meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


Carol Johnson
Clerk of Council

APPROVED February 18, 2025

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