

Brookville City Council
Regular Meeting
June 4, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 7:30 p.m. on June 4, 2019 in the Brookville Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Fowler, Schreier, Swabb, Wilder and Zimmerlin; Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome, Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton, Law Director Stephan, and Clerk Wheeler were present.

Roll Call by Clerk Wheeler.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Schreier to approve the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to approve the Emergency Council Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner asked for a Moment of Silence for the traumatic event that happened last week with the tornados and for one of our own, Wayne Ward, who passed away this past Sunday.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to appoint Stephen Crane to City Council with an expiring term of December 31, 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

Law Director Stephan administered the Oath of Office to Stephen Crane.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton stated she has a list of people she would like to thank for their work during the recent tornado. She stated a huge thank you goes out to Fire Chief Fletcher and Police Chief Jerome. She informed they began monitoring the weather early last Monday and communicated with each other to set the tornado sirens off prior to the tornado touching down, which saved many lives. She thanked them both for getting the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) set up so quickly. She thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to the subdivisions damaged to quickly assess the turnoff of gas to damaged homes and to check on residents; the Police Department for their assistance with traffic control and manning the entrance to Terrace Park; CERT members who volunteered their time and worked tirelessly in assisting and their dedication and hard work was greatly appreciated; Chris Homan and his staff in the Service Department; Montgomery County for sending out a track hoe to assist with the removal of trees in Wolf Creek; the front office staff for answering the phones all day everyday; the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Officials for sending inmates out to assist with the clean up effort; Rumpke for their quick response in delivering porta-jons and dumpsters; the many businesses who donated water and equipment; the City of Centerville, City of Union, Village of Lewisburg, and Clay and Perry Townships for their assistance with chipping; the hundreds of volunteers who donated food, water, supplies and volunteered cleanup efforts, we would not be where we are today without the amount of volunteers who showed up from near and far. She stated she is very proud to be an employee and resident of the City of Brookville. She thanked the utility companies for working diligently to restore our electric, water, gas, and cable.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton provided Council with a copy of the 2019 Water and Sewer Rate Survey conducted by the City of Oakwood.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton informed all of the bulbs on Market Street from Wolf Creek to Jefferson streets have been replaced with LED bulbs.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton reported the NorthBrook Water Tower Project will be wrapped up soon. She informed the light poles are currently on back order.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton informed the large cracks in the Golden Gate Park tennis courts have been filled in.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton informed Park Board granted the Special Wish Car Show to be held in Golden Gate Park on June 29, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She informed this Car Show raises funds for A Special Wish of Dayton.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton informed work will begin soon on the pedestrian bridge in Golden Gate Park, the materials have been ordered.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton presented the May 31, 2019 Fund Balance.

Motion by Wilder, second by Fowler to approve the May 31, 2019 Fund Balance as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Member Zimmerlin thanked Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton for her leadership during the tornado and cleanup, it is much appreciated.

Fire Chief Fletcher informed he does not have the Operations Report report for May completed yet.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported during the six hours after the tornado, the unified command operations, which included our Fire and Police and neighboring Chiefs and jurisdictions who came to help us, checked 450 locations that were exposed to the tornado and they were able to leave the homes confident no one was trapped inside. He informed there was not a single animal left unattended after the storm. He stated the initial operations were centered around the heavily damaged areas where buildings were leveled. He stated within minutes a command post was established at the fire station and were soon joined by the Manager and Mayor and they had contact with everyone within our area of responsibility including Township Trustees. He stated he and the Police Chief never doubt they have the support of the City Manager and Mayor, but it is important to them in a situation like this to have their presence and know they have their full support to make the decisions they need to do their jobs in this type of situation. He stated everyone worked together flawlessly. He thanked CERT for their hard work and help during this situation. He stated CERT is made up of citizen volunteers who went above and beyond the call during this incident. He thanked the neighboring communities who provided us with mutual aid, the cities of Englewood, Union, Farmersville and New Lebanon. He stated unfortunately, we were on our own for a period right after the tornado struck because the help that was immediately available had trouble getting to us. He described our crews encountered destruction that made them have to go on foot in order to reach homes affected back in Terrace Park, which caused longer times before crews could reach people. He stated emergency personnel did their best to reach everyone in a timely manner.

Chief Fletcher reported recovery efforts are winding down. He informed he will be working with Police Chief Jerome on a list of people they would like to periodically check up on. He informed there are people that want to stay in their homes even though that may not be the best idea and they will continue to check in on their well being.

Fire Chief Fletcher stated the City may have great relationships with liaisons from DP&L and Vectren, however, the City nor the Fire Department can control when they come out to get the electric or gas turned back on.

Fire Chief Fletcher informed there was a burn ban in effect within our Fire District during the water emergency. He stated it defied common sense to have burning going on when there was very little water to effectively defend against a fire. He informed once the water was stabilized, we went back to normal burning regulations within our Fire District. He reminded construction materials cannot be burned. He informed a limb drop off area has been established at Westbrook Road and Mosier Parkway. He stated a huge thank you goes to John Ritter for having that area set up so quickly for us to use for people to drop off their limbs.

Member Schreier stated amazing work was done by both Chiefs and the Service Superintendent and they handled this situation amazingly and with such quick response.

Police Chief Jerome stated having the firehouse during this type of situation was wonderful. He stated they all train for these type of events, but it's so different when it actually happens to your own community. He thanked everyone for all of their help in the relief efforts. He thanked the City Manager for letting the Department Heads do what they needed to do and what they were hired to do. He stated things would not have gone so smoothly if the Department Heads weren't able to make the calls and do what they were trained and hired to do. He stated safety and security were an immediate paramount concern because they heard of immediate looting concerns in other communities. He stated that is why the curfew was implemented. He thanked the Chiefs from Englewood, Union and Clay Township for their help. He stated everyone worked together as a team, which was unbelievable. He stated CERT was an amazing help including their help with patrols. He informed Terrace Park was just opened back up yesterday and there have been no instances since. He informed he is not sorry they locked the media out of the plat until the next day after the tornado struck. He stated the media was understanding of that and he feels they actually did a good job with their coverage on the situation. He stated the City pushed out more information on social media and the Hyper Reach System than ever before. He described resources started pouring in on Tuesday after the tornado and eventually so many donations were received they had to move the donation center to Fire Station #1. He informed a designated hotline was also created to handle the amount of calls coming in from those wanting to donate or volunteer. He thanked Brittany Ferguson for her work on the phones with the high amount of calls that came in. He also thanked Clay Township Trustee Steve Woolf for all of his help at the EOC. He stated relationships that have been built over the years helped to be amazing resources. He informed once the donation center was moved to Station #1, the training room of Station 76 was transformed into the main Operations Center where all calls were being organized by needs, resources and volunteers. He stated this went on through Sunday and the call center was then able to be closed down at 4:00 pm on Sunday. He informed reports will be generated soon on the whole event. He informed the donation center at Station #1 will be done after tonight, but FISH and Shephards Hand have now been overstocked with items. He informed the rest of the food was sent to other food pantries. He stated this was the most organized operation he has seen in a long time. He was glad to have seen Rumpke deliver wash stations and porta-jons to the Terrace Park area. He thanked everyone for their support including City Council Members.

Fire Chief Fletcher thanked the Ridge Church for all of their help. He stated Red Cross was able to meet people there, which was a big help. He informed the school sent school buses to transport people to the Ridge Church for shelter, showers or food. He also thanked Trinity Church for the use of their parking lot. He stated these things were exactly what was needed and was wonderful to have provided.

Police Chief Jerome informed he was on the phone immediately after the tornado struck with the School Superintendent. He stated the school had a lot going on with their own damages, but they still arranged to help with transportation. He informed teachers and students volunteered on Wednesday in Terrace Park cleaning up and it was the most amazing team effort he has never seen in his career.

Law Director Stephan informed proposed Resolution No. 19-09 is before City Council tonight. He informed on May 29, 2019 Acting City Manager Keaton requested he prepare a Declaration of State of Emergency. He informed the document was executed on May 29, 2019 by the Mayor and Acting City Manager. He advised the Declaration of State of Emergency was to provide additional legal basis for steps being taken during the emergency and to outline the current conditions at the time. He advised the purpose of Resolution 19-09 is for City Council to ratify the State of Emergency declared by the Mayor and Acting City Manager and provides additional legal basis for the actions taken and puts Council on record of supporting the declaration. He requested Resolution No. 19-09 be passed in emergency format since it deals with an emergency situation, Staff would like it to go into effect immediately.

Motion by Schreier, second by Wilder to read proposed Resolution No. 19-09. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Schreier, second by Zimmerlin to accept the first reading, dispense with the second and third reading and adopt Resolution No. 19-09 entitled, "A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE MAYOR AND ACTING CITY MANAGER EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2019, AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY." All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner stated his home was directly affected by the tornado and so was his son's home. He described after the tornado hit, he checked on his neighbors and then contacted the Police Chief and they started driving around to assess damages. He stated they knew early on there would be a situation with the water and they were worried about Brookhaven. He informed the owners of McMakens live in London, Ohio and came in the early morning hours to deliver five pallets of water to get us started. He stated once the sun came up, damages could really be seen. He stated now we will be in the redevelopment stage, not the rebuilding stage, but redeveloping. He stated the Terrace Park plat was built back in the 1960's.

Mayor Letner thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs and Service Superintendent Homan for their hard work and stated their communication throughout this has been unbelievable.

Mayor Letner stated unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the City of Dayton with the water. He stated we thought we would have water back on Tuesday and it didn't happen, it turned out to be Wednesday evening before we had water again. He informed some water is still cloudy, but it is safe and drinkable. He described there has been air in the lines, which causes the cloudiness, but it is safe to drink. He again thanked the Department Heads because they make our community look so good, they make things happen.

In Old Business,

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Schreier to read proposed Ordinance No. 2019-04. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler, to accept the third reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2019-04 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF BROOKVILLE, OHIO." All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner stated New Business was covered in Law Director Stephan's report.

Member Fowler reported the next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for June 11. He stated Park Board Members have been busy fielding calls from people who would like to use the park for fundraisers to help tornado victims.

Member Schreier informed Planning Commission met last on May 16. He reported the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant that was applied for, was not approved for the three sided sign on Market Street to list out businesses. He stated Zoning Officer Snedeker is now working on other options.

Bonnie Cordes, Park Board President, informed the Optimist Club plans to have their waffle trailer in front of McMakens this weekend and all money raised will be donated to tornado victims. She asked if any sort of designated account has been set up yet for tornado relief donations?

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton informed monetary donations are going through the Brookville Fire Association.

Fire Chief Fletcher informed an account was opened at LCNB for donations. He stated the immediate outpouring of donations was tremendous.

Ms. Cordes informed she was contacted by a band interested in hosting a concert at the Soccer Park. She stated she doesn't know anything about the band though and was worried now is not the best time to bring in a lot of people from out of town. She informed she suggested they reach out to the Brookville Event Center.

Janice Childers, of 304 Western Avenue, stated it was amazing the amount of people that stepped up to help or donate after the tornado. She stated she is so proud to be a part of this community. She stated one person that really needs recognition is John Ritter. She stated the amount of equipment and manpower he donated as well as the land for limbs to be dropped off was amazing. She thanked John Ritter for all he has done for this community.

Mayor Letner agreed.

Fire Chief Fletcher informed he called John Ritter right after the tornado to tell him some of his work equipment that was parked on his property off of Heckathorn Road was damaged. He stated right from the beginning John Ritter was more concerned with what Brookville needed than his own personal needs. He informed that even now that the cleanup efforts have slowed down in Brookville, he has asked for information on other areas in need of help with cleanup efforts. Chief Fletcher stated John Ritter is certainly a special man.

Ms. Childers informed last week she was behind a Rumpke driver near Brookside and Church Streets when the driver turned a corner and immediately put the truck in reverse to back up through an intersection. She stated the driver did it so fast, he couldn't have looked twice. She stated she was very concerned about this after the recent incident that happened here when a young lady was hit by a Rumpke truck. She stated she doesn't feel the drivers should be backing up into the intersections. She informed she feels this is a big concern and she called the City Offices and Rumpke after it happened and spoke with Rumpke's Safety Department.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.


Meghan Wheeler, Clerk of Council


Charles Letner, Mayor