

VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
WORK SESSION MEETING
February 25, 2009

Clerk Biro called the roll. Those present were Marilyn Duszynski, Ralph Faragone, Lois Henley, Irma Schab, Frank Schoeffler and George Suhy. Also present was Law Director Jon Greenberg and Treasurer John Traffis.

Mayor Bacci, Council and the Clerk discussed the 2009 tax rebates for the Village residents. They reviewed the amount of interest revenue earned in 2008, the amount needed for rebates and all the other obligations needed to be met in 2009. After a lengthy discussion Council as a whole agreed to discuss the rebates at the May workshop.

Mayor Bacci reviewed a plan that would reduce garbage collection costs. The plan included reducing trash collection to one day per week, and purchasing unified trash cans for the residents, that would be similar to our recycle cans. Mayor Bacci showed Council a quote to purchase the cans of \$12,500 and the cost of \$5,000 to retro fit our garbage truck. If the plan was implemented, the Village would see a savings of approximately \$13,000.00 within one year.

Mr. Schoeffler went around the table for Council's approval: Ms. Duszynski stated that she would like to think about this further, Mr. Faragone stated that as long as we don't have any problems with the size of the cans for the residents, he feels that it is a good idea; Mrs. Henley, Mrs. Schab, Mr. Schoeffler and Mr. Suhy would like to proceed with the program. Mayor Bacci stated that he would have a proposal for Council by the next Council meeting.

Mayor Bacci presented Council with a plan to have the portion of Mayor's Court that deals with citations and waivers be handled at the Police Station. He expressed reasons of safety and the need to have a facility that is continually open for answering calls. In order to do accomplish this, the computer systems of the Police Secretary and Clerk of Courts need to be connected. The cost of \$8,700 to do this will come out of the Mayor's Court Computer Fund. The revenues are generated from tickets issued and interest. Mayor Bacci explained that when someone gets a citation they would be able to stop at the Police Department and pay their waiver there. Mayor's Court will still be conducted at the Village Hall because of sufficient parking available on court days. Council, as a whole, agreed to go ahead with this purchase.

Council reviewed the draft resolution for the ODOT 2009-2010 salt purchasing contract. Service Director Waldemarson has indicated the contract has been successful and he will be increasing the tonnage from 150 to 300 for the next season. Council, as a whole, agreed to have the resolution on the March agenda.

Clerk Biro mentioned that she received a call from a representative of the Cleveland Water Department and asked if they received any phone calls from our residents complaining about their water bill. Council as a whole replied that they have not received any calls.

Mr. Schoeffler had Clerk Biro explain the recent changes in Cobra health care coverage. With the federal stimulus package, employees that are permanently laid off, effected by a reduced work week or on temporarily lay off and lose their healthcare, they will be eligible to elect Cobra coverage from their current employer. The employee will only have to pay 35 per cent of the Cobra fees and the remaining 65 per cent will be picked up the employer, that cost will be credited against the employer's federal tax deposit. This is for nine months only.

Clerk Biro gave a brief summary of the 2009 revenue budget. The revenue budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee and the projections are \$8.7 million in revenue for the general fund which 7.2 million is in city income tax, general real estate property tax of \$393,000.00 and the rest is shared taxes, service charges and miscellaneous income. Our property tax collection rate is at 93 % and millage rate is 4.4 per cent. A detailed spreadsheet will be given to Council at the budget meeting. The finance committee is reviewing individual department budgets and will have a spreadsheet ready at the meeting also.

Council decided to have the Special Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the expenditures budget and requested all department heads be there for any questions.

Clerk Biro informed Council of a meeting she had with the consultant that worked with the departments on their budgets. The consultant felt she had a good response from the department heads and stated that they seem to want to be involved with their own budgets. They were very open to her suggestions and stated that she found it to be a very positive experience. Clerk Biro reviewed other suggestions the consultant had for Council.

Mr. Faragone moved, seconded by Mrs. Schab to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

Mr. Schoeffler moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski to move out of executive session and return to the Workshop Meeting. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

Mrs. Henley moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski to move into the Community Improvement Corporation discussion. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

Mayor Bacci informed Council of a project that is currently in front of the Zoning Board that involves Thompson Aluminum Casting at the bottom of East 71st Street and Canal Road. The company wishes to build a free standing structure adjacent their current building for storage. The Zoning Board would like to see a more traditional brick and block building instead of the proposed agricultural type structure. Mayor Bacci asked the board if they would be willing to provide a grant to the company to assist them with their structure. The Board agreed to have the Mayor discuss a grant with Thompson Aluminum Casting and update the Board with his progress.

Ms. Duszynski moved, seconded by Mrs. Henley to move out of the Community Improvement Corporation discussion and return to the Workshop Meeting. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

WHEREFORE, there being no further business before this Council, Mrs. Schab moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the Workshop Meeting be adjourned. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

Passed: April 8, 2009

ATTEST:

Mayor

Clerk of Council