

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS  
CAUCUS  
NOVEMBER 14, 2018  
6:00 PM**

**COUNCIL CAUCUS**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

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Ms. Harris called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll.

Those present were, Mayor Bacci, Law Director Bill Mason, Clerk Unger, Todd Bloam, Rick Centa, Renato Contipelli, Cheryl Harris and Matt Schoeffler.

Also in attendance were Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, CFO Angel Meriwether, Engineer Todd Sciano, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken Labella.

**BEST COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Tom Evans the Superintendent of Cuyahoga Heights Schools introduced himself and gave an update on the academics of Cuyahoga Heights. He said that this was the first year that the State Report Card came out with a letter grade for the school districts. Although the grading will change next year, Cuyahoga Heights came out with a B grade, and this is the highest we have ever gotten from the state. Only 15 districts in the State of Ohio received an A grade.

We reached 19 out of 24 of the states indicators. Out of 872 school districts in the State, we ranked 47<sup>th</sup>. In the county, we were 8<sup>th</sup> out of 37. The score we really focus on is the Value Added Growth, they take the scores from two years ago, and the scores from last year, and they calculate Student Growth. Out of 872 school districts, we were 38<sup>th</sup>, or the top 4 percent, and fifth in the county. The only schools that rated better were Brecksville, Orange, Solon, and Mayfield.

We are very happy with the grades, but are always looking to do better.

The big discussion at the Ohio School Board, is the lack of communication between the Ohio Department of Education and the legislature. They don't have a lot of communication between each other. We know that the TPP funding from the State is going to go away, and we are one of the top districts to receive this funding. There are currently 60 districts that still receive TPP funding, and out of the 60, there are 30 that losing this will have an adverse effect, and we are one of them. We receive approximately three million dollars a year in TPP funding from the state, out of a 12 million dollar budget. When this funding is completely phased out, and

knowing that it will have such an adverse effect on our budget, we are hoping the State finds other ways to make up for the funding.

Some of the things happening at the school next year. We just put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for renovations of the building. The high school building is 80 years old, and the elementary is 65 years old. We are going to stay in those building for a long time, and we need to upgrade the air conditioning and heating system controls, and lighting. We are looking at ways to fund the renovations. We have around 2.2 million dollars in recovery money from the Palazzo scandal that will help us start the projects. We are looking at ways to get these projects done without borrowing money, so somewhere down the road, three or four years, we might need a levy for permanent improvements. In the 80 years of the school district, we have never had a Permanent Improvement levy, due in large part because we were a TPP districts which gave us the money for improvements. We will not have this money when the State phases out the TPP funding.

Mr. Jim Zwisler of the BEST Committee said that this committee is in its seventh year in the district. He talked about the Open House they were planning in January. It used to be the tuition planning open house, but we recognized the value of all four communities in maintaining enrollment, and the services that are offered in each Village, so we are going to work with each individual community and our Government classes at the school to promote the Villages at the open house. Each class will adopt one of the Villages to make a PowerPoint on each Village that will highlight the services, opportunities, and value of residing in each Village. We are asking each Village to bring brochures and information on your specific Village. We would also like to get information on all the rental and purchasing of property in your Village.

Mr. Evans thanked the Mayor and Council for the great relationship that we have with all the Villages. This is not common anywhere else in the State, and we are very fortunate.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **To the Mayor and Council from Ms. Paige Meriwether:**

A thank you note from Ms. Meriwether, thanking everyone for the Village Scholarship. Paige plans to graduate with an undergrad in neuroscience and your generosity will assist me financially while attending Wright State University.

### **From Mayor Bacci to Ms. Andrea Irland of the National Park Service:**

A letter in support of the application to designate the Cuyahoga River Water Trail as an Ohio State Designated Water Trail.

We support this application for State Water Trail Designation of the Cuyahoga River as a strategy to enhance the quality of life for residents of our community and across the region and for continued water quality and ecological improvement of this river and its entire watershed.

**PURCHASES:**

Finance Committee purchases for October:

Approved a purchase of 300 case bound books from Angstrom Graphics for \$11,945.00. This is for the Centennial books.

Mr. Bloam entered the Caucus at this time.

**MINUTES:**

October 10, 2018	Caucus
October 10, 2018	Council Meeting
October 24, 2018	Workshop
October 29, 2018	Special Council Meeting

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Schoeffler agreed to second.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Cash Position Statement October 2018  
R.I.T.A Preliminary report November 2018

Mr. Schoeffler agreed to make the motion to accept the Financial Reports, Mr. Centa agreed to second.

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-85**

**SECOND READING AS AMENDED**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY THROUGH ITS E-GRANT SYSTEM FOR FIFTEEN (15) SCBA UNITS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER TO EXPEND ALL FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE ALL SCBA UNITS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Ms. Harris agreed to second.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-87**

**SECOND READING**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 246.05 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS TO ALLOW FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE SCHEDULED ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Centa agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

Motion to instruct the Clerk to group the pay resolutions for reading and adoption.

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Mr. Schoeffler agreed to second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-92**

Payment of Certain Claims: \$734,791.28  
Payroll  
General Bills  
Transfers

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-93**

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2018-83 ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Centa agreed to second.

Ms. Meriwether explained that this is the amounts given to us from the county and we pass them in Resolution form.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-94**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER TO ADVANCE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF TAX LEVIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Centa agreed to make the motion, Ms. Harris agreed to second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-95**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ZARNEY CREATIVE FOR MARKETING SERVICES

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Mr. Centa agreed to second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-96**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PEST MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED FOR PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Mr. Contipelli agreed to second.

Mr. Schoeffler stated that last year, they did the spring spraying, but it was much later this year. If they know they are going to be late, can we let the residents know ahead of time? Mayor Bacci asked Mr. Schoeffler to refer the calls he receives to him, so we can follow up on any needs of the residents. Mr. Schoeffler said he got the residents the information, but he will let the Administration know when he gets calls or complaints.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-97**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 248.01 AND 248.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO CREATE THE POSITION OF LABOR II IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Mr. Centa agreed to second.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-98**

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW SECTION 252.09 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO CREATE THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO VILLAGE HALL

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-99**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 254.05, 254.07, AND 254.12 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE, SICK LEAVE, AND HOLIDAY PAY FOR THE NEWLY CREATED POSITIONS OF LABOR II IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO VILLAGE HALL

Mr. Centa agreed to make the motion, Ms. Harris agreed to second.

Mr. Contipelli said that in the Ordinance he saw that the Part Time Dispatchers are still in there. Mayor Bacci said that after they retire or leave they will be taken out of the Ordinance.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-100**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CUYAHOGA RIVER WATER TRAIL AS A DESIGNATED WATER TRAIL BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-101**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO A MEMBER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FOR THE NICKY BOULEVARD STORM SEWER EXTENSION AND SLOPE STABILIZATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

Mr. Contipelli stated good work in getting this done.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-102**

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, IN THE ESTIMATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000,000.00 TO BE ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE 2019 INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE CANAL ROAD REPAIR AND RESURFACING PROJECT, THE NICKY BOULEVARD STORM SEWER EXTENSION AND SLOPE STABILIZATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, THE STATE ROUTE 21 CROSSOVER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AND THE SERVICE GARAGE PARKING LOT REPAIRS AND RESURFACING PROJECT, TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE'S GENERAL, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, OR BOND CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR MONEYS PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Nothing at this time.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Mayor Bacci asked Council if they were aware that Ms. Kosicki's house on E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street is going to go up for sale. Mr. Schoeffler said that he heard that it is going to be for sale for \$135,000.00.

Caucus ended at 6:40 pm.

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2018  
7:00 PM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

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Mayor Bacci called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll.

Those present were, Council members Todd Bloam, Rick Centa, Renato Contipelli, and Cheryl Harris, Matt Schoeffler.

Also present were Law Director Bill Mason, Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, CFO Angel Meriwether, Engineer Todd Sciano, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken LaBella, Administrative Assistant Lee Ann Schoeffler, Administrative Accounting Assistant Amanda Domzalski, Administrative Assistant Christina Caporuscio, Service Director Dave Sammons, Head Dispatcher Barb Cash, Police Chief Brian Sturgill, and Fire Chief Mike Suhy.

**ROLL CALL: Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Schoeffler**

Ms. Harris made the motion to accept Ms. Henley to fill the Council vacancy seat of Ms. Biro, second by Mr. Schoeffler. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Henley was sworn in by Mayor Bacci and joined the other Council members at the table.

Ms. Barbara Ann Biro stepped down as Councilwoman for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights to continue to work on her professional career as CFO of the City of Garfield Heights — as well as now assisting neighboring communities, and to afford more time with her family; especially because she is a proud new grandma. We wish her well and thank her for her years of service as a councilwoman.

The Mayor went over the new appointments to the committees since adding a new Council member.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**To the Mayor and Council from Ms. Paige Meriwether:**

A thank you note from Ms. Meriwether, thanking everyone for the Village Scholarship. Paige plans to graduate with an undergrad in neuroscience and your generosity will assist me financially while attending Wright State University.

**From Mayor Bacci to Ms. Andrea Irland of the National Park Service:**

A letter in support of the application to designate the Cuyahoga River Water Trail as an Ohio State Designated Water Trail.

We support this application for State Water Trail Designation of the Cuyahoga River as a strategy to enhance the quality of life for residents of our community and across the region and for continued water quality and ecological improvement of this river and its entire watershed.

**PURCHASES:**

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Mr. Contipelli made the motion to accept the Minutes as prepared and place them on file, seconded by Mr. Schoeffler. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Cash Position Statement October 2018  
R.I.T.A Preliminary report November 2018

Mr. Schoeffler made the motion to accept the reports, seconded by Mr. Centa. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-85**

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Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Ms. Harris that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-87**

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Mr. Centa moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam that the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

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FOR PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Mayor Bacci asked Ms. Schoeffler to follow up with any information concerning the spring spraying if it is going to be later in the year. We need to put it in the Newsletter, and then follow up again for those that might have missed it. Hopefully it won't be as wet this year, and they will spray on time.

Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Mr. Contipelli that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

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NICKY BOULEVARD STORM SEWER EXTENSION AND SLOPE STABILIZATION  
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OF BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, IN THE ESTIMATED  
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000,000.00 TO  
BE ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE 2019  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE CANAL ROAD REPAIR AND  
RESURFACING PROJECT, THE NICKY BOULEVARD  
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**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**MAYOR BACCI:**

This past Sunday was Veterans Day – I wanted to take a moment to say “thank you to all the men and women who have served ... we will NEVER forget what our veterans have done for us and this country.” Again, thank you and God Bless!

The Cuyahoga Heights Schools are starting a new tradition and will be hosting a quarterly “Mayor’s Breakfast” for students/families that are excelling in our school setting. I have the privilege of partaking in the event tomorrow morning. It’s always nice talking to the students.

Go Redskins ! Best wishes to the Cuyahoga Heights Redskins football team for advancing in the playoffs. They will be playing against John F. Kennedy Catholic this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. – neutral field – Nordonia High School. Go Redskins beat the Eagles! If there is any interest in using the bus, we will make it available.

November birthday wishes to employees: (1) Pat Koran & Tom Nova; (10) Tom Kekelis; (27) Clerk Unger; and (28) Mark Hine

Please continue to keep several of our residents in your thoughts and prayers: Theresa Bentlejewski, Mrs. Barbara Combs, Mrs. Ernestine Deliberato, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Mike Krusinski, Mrs. Helen Leciejewski, Mrs. Donna Pellini, and Mrs. Dorothy Sonoda. Mrs. Combs is going through some very hard times, and please keep her in your prayers.

There will be no tree lighting this year, if it is missed this year, we will bring it back next year.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving holiday. The Village Hall & Service Department will be closed on November 22 & 23.

**MR. BLOAM:**

Nothing at this time.

**MR. CENTA:**

Mr. Centa thanked Ms. Biro for her service as Councilwoman, and wished her well in her future endeavors, and welcomed back Ms. Henley. He also thanked all the veterans for their past and present service.

**MR. CONTIPELLI:**

Mr. Contipelli asked Mayor Bacci when he could call an EDC meeting to tour the Benjamin Moore building. Mayor Bacci asked if we could do it the first week in December during the day. He explained to Ms. Henley that we are working to try to put someone into the Benjamin Moore building. Mr. Contipelli explained that whatever date we set, all of Council is welcome to tour the building. Mayor Bacci will put it together, and let Council know the date.

Happy Thanksgiving. Thanked Ms. Biro in for her good work she did for our Village, and welcomed back Ms. Henley.

**MS. HARRIS:**

Ms. Harris thanked all the Veterans for their sacrifice. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. We should all be very thankful for all that we have in our Village. Mayor Bacci said that sometimes we have been here for so long, that we take everything for granted. Thank you for reminding us of how fortunate we all are.

**MS. HENLEY:**

Ms. Henley thanked everyone for welcoming her back. She is sorry she had to come back because Ms. Biro left, and wishes her well.

During her time off of Council, she got involved with the Food Pantry, and delivers food to the less fortunate. She asked Mayor Bacci if they could be part of the food collection in the Village this year. Mayor Bacci said we will accommodate that, and welcomed Ms. Henley back on Council.

**MR. SCHOEFFLER:**

Mr. Schoeffler also said they will contribute to the Food Pantry from a collection that they do at CVCC. He also said that he talked to Brooklyn Heights about participating in the Art in the Park that they do in the summer. Mayor Bacci said that Mr. Deal and the pool staff will follow up on that with Brooklyn Heights.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR DAVE SAMMONS:**

Thanked Council for all of their support of the Service Department, and happy Thanksgiving.

**HEAD DISPATCHER BARB CASH:**

Go Redskins! Happy Thanksgiving.

**FIRE CHIEF SUHY:**

Happy Thanksgiving.

**POLICE CHIEF STRURGILL:**

Happy Thanksgiving.

**LAW DIRECTOR BILL MASON:**

Nothing at this time.

**CLERK UNGER:**

Nothing at this time.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR LEE ANN SCHOEFFLER:**

Nothing at this time.

**CFO ANGEL MERIWETHER:**

Nothing at this time.

**ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR BEN CHOJNACKI:**

Nothing at this time.

**ENGINEER TODD SCIANO:**

Nothing at this time.

**ASSISTANT BUILDING COMMISSIONER KEN LABELLA:**

Nothing at this time.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT AMANDA DOMZALSKI:**

Nothing at this time.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT CHRISTINA CAPORUSCIO:**

Nothing at this time.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Mr. Deliberato of 4704 E.71<sup>st</sup> Street asked Mayor Bacci what the pay scale is for the new hires of Labor II positions. Mayor Bacci said that this position is an effort to make sustainable full time careers for people that are working for us in a part time capacity. Over the past 12-14 months, I approached Council and said that we have good folks working for us, and we need to create full time positions for these workers who have been with us for a long time, in an effort to retain them.

Even though we need four new positions, Council agreed to give the Service Department two at this time. We needed to scale back the pay in order to stay within our budget. Our health is expensive, so when we give someone a full time job it is very costly. The pay scale is 15-19 dollars an hour for these positions. If an individual comes in with a lot of experience and certifications, we will start them at a higher rate, but Council gave me a sliding scale of 15-19 dollars per hour.

Mr. Deliberato said that the workers that are being looked at for these positions hear so many different things from other workers that they are not sure what is happening. Mayor Bacci said Council gave us two positions this year, and we will be coming back to Council in 2019 to try to get two more if our CFO agrees that we can fit it in the budget.

Mr. Deliberato said he only wanted to know what the starting rate was for these positions. Mayor Bacci said it is between 15-19 dollars per hour. Mr. Deliberato thanked Mayor Bacci, and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this Council, Ms. Henley moved, seconded by Mr. Schoeffler that the Council Meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed: motion carried.