

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
6:00 PM
MAY 25, 2016

ROLL CALL: BIRO, BLOAM, DUSZYNSKI, HARRIS, HENLEY, SHOEFLER

Motion to excuse Mr. Bloam and Mr. Schoeffler. Ms. Biro made the motion, seconded by Ms. Duszynski. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

MAYORS REPORT

Issue 1 – Informational packet to new residents – Ms. Harris

The Mayor stated that he and Ms. Harris had a long discussion on how to make new residents as well as older residents aware of the laws and Ordinances that can be brought to the attention of our residents, such as grass cutting, gutters falling off your house, and others. One of the issues in question was ladder racks on commercial vehicles. Ms. Harris thought it would be a great idea to ultimately tell realtors and ultimately folks that are selling their homes, and give them this understanding up front, so once they moved in or purchased a home, they would know the laws, and what is acceptable in our community.

The Mayor stated that he and Lee Ann have started to create a community service manual that would go out to all our residents outlining the different services we have, how to contact the Mayor's office, Police Department, Fire Department, and others. Previously we have sent out a card with this information, but this would be a kind of good neighbor handbook, to be a guide in understanding things such as Ordinances, and other frequently asked questions. This document could be a living document that over the course of years, we can add information to it as needed.

Ms. Harris said this reactive for the people that are here, and proactive for the people that move in. She would like to see the buyer of a home get this information before buying a home, and would like the seller to give it to prospective buyers and have them sign off on it. She thinks that this needs to be enforced, and maybe it should be the responsibility of the real estate agent to get it to the buyer and get it signed. Another thought is to have the homeowner selling the house give it to prospective buyers and have it signed. Ms. Duszynski said it is a good idea, but feels that it will not be followed through. Ms. Harris feels that it is a document that will protect us from someone not knowing the rules and laws.

The Mayor stated that ignorance is not a defense of the law, and this ladder rack law is not simple to the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. This law is in most communities if not all of them, excluding Cleveland where they cannot enforce it. Commercial vehicles parking in the Village has always been a hot topic. In more affluent communities, they take offense to parking commercial vehicles in driveways. He believes that education is never going to hurt, and he has been working on this for some time.

Ms. Harris said there should be a procedure in place to get this information to a buyer when someone puts their house up for sale. Ms. Henley doesn't think this will happen, she stated that if someone wants to give you the price you are asking, you are not going to give them a packet outlining the laws and rules of the Village. Ms. Harris believes that the seller should have a procedure that they go through to get this document signed before they sell the house. The Mayor stated that we could not ask the realtors to do this, but we could have the Building Department do this when they do a point of sale inspection. That is as good a policy as we can get. Ms. Harris feels that there has got to be a way to get this information to a buyer before they sign the papers so they know the rules and Ordinances, before they buy a home in the Village, this way they cannot say they didn't know the rules. This has to be done by procedure, otherwise the paper is worthless. Mayor Bacci said that it could be a policy, but does not believe getting potential buyers to sign off cannot be a law. Law Director Greenberg agreed with the Mayor. It can be a good neighbor policy.

Ms. Duszynski agreed with Ms. Harris that we need to do something, and feels that getting this literature out by the Building Department during the point of sale is the way to do it. The Mayor said this document will go out to all the residents this summer as well as new homeowners, and asked all of Council to get him ideas in putting it together. He said many other communities do the same thing. The Mayor will continue to work on this project and when it is ready, he will give it to Council for suggestions.

Issue 2 – Letter in support of Superintendent Evans at the High School – Ms. Duszynski

Ms. Duszynski asked the Mayor to write a letter to the School Board in support of Mr. Evans if all Council agreed. Mayor Bacci said he would have no problem drafting the letter. He stated that the spirit of the letter would be to be careful with our school district, you are shaking something that is the foundation of our community. The school Board has some very intelligent individuals that are acting very poorly, and that is sad. Ms. Duszynski agreed. The Mayor said he will get the letter to Council for signing before he sends it to the board.

Issue 3 – Letter to the school stating that next year it will be the schools responsibility to maintain their grounds – Ms. Harris

The Mayor asked Ms. Harris if she received the letter from his office related to the work that we did at the school. She said she has received it, but she wants to make sure that this cost is in their budget for next year. The Mayor replied, that this is what he asked Mr. Evans to do. Mr. Unger received an invoice from the school to the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County asking for payment for the work that was done. The Mayor said this invoice for \$3,600.00 is a grant that they will receive, and then repay us for the work that was done. Obviously it is not the full amount, but they are giving us whatever they had to facilitate what we did.

The Mayor stated that in his conversations, and also in a letter to Mr. Evans, he is going to try his best to offset these costs moving into 2017. First off, we need to get him to stay as our Superintendent, and he will be in communication with Council as we move forward. We continue to get compliments on what we have done to the school on a daily basis.

Ms. Henley asked if our Service Department will continue to maintain the school grounds, the Mayor said yes, they will continue through the season.

There was a discussion concerning the trees that were planted on the tree lawns. The Mayor stated that many of them did not make it through the year, and have to be replaced. There was some discussion on the harsh winter of 2014-2015 that took a toll on the trees. There was some concern that they were planted too late in the year, but the Mayor said that it didn't matter when they were planted, they were dormant at the time, and they didn't make it through the harsh winter, and they will be replaced.

Issue 4 – Spending Policy – Finance Committee

Ms. Duszynski stated that this became an issue because we were not informed of a project that was being done, and we have had a couple of issues in the past, and we would like to try to avoid these issues in the future. The Mayor stated that he has talked to all of the department heads, and explained that in this particular instance, we had a bunch of things going on, but they are all aware that if we are approaching a dollar amount that needs to go to Finance for approval, we need to at least make them aware in order to get the documentation in place.

Ms. Henley asked Ms. Duszynski if something comes before the Finance Committee approves a purchase, does it come in front of the Council as a whole. Ms. Duszynski said no, it does not have too, the Finance can approve anything up to \$25,000.00, but Ms. Duszynski gives a report on Council floor of anything that they have approved over \$5,000.00. The Mayor stated that this procedure is working very well.

There was a discussion on the Shred Day for this year. Ms. Henley has picked the date for the last couple of years, and this year, Scotty picked the date, and she was unable to attend. There was some discussion, and the Mayor extended an invitation for Ms. Henley to have another Shred Day in July, at a time she can make it, and she can continue to do it every year from now on.

Ms. Henley also asked when the Hillside Party Center was going to be torn down, because she has residents that want to bid on it. The Mayor said that once the asbestos abatement is completed, there will be a bid package going out some time in June. In the bid package, it will say that the structure must come down in August.

Mayors Report

He mentioned to Council about the passing of Patti Crooks.

Also, he updated Council on the cement work being done at the baby pool. The cement will be poured in the next couple days, it has a cure period before it can be painted, and then it will have to cure for another 4-8 days, so we are looking at missing the first week of the baby pool during the pool opening.

The Mayor would like to call a Special Workshop next Thursday, June 2nd. This would be specific to our ODOT Trail Grant and two other grants that are in play concerning the project. If we are going to do this project, we have to do it in 2017.

Ms. Henley asked why the railroad ties are still on the side of the trail The Mayor said it is very expensive to get rid of them, and they will dispose of them a little at a time.

WHEREFORE, there being no further business before this Council, Ms. Duszynski made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Biro. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.