MINUTES VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS CAUCUS OCTOBER 11, 2017 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CAUCUS

OCTOBER 11, 2017

Ms. Duszynski called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll. Those present were, Mayor Bacci, Law Director Bill Mason, Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, Council members Barbara Biro, Todd Bloam, Marilyn Duszynski, Cheryl Harris, and Lois Henley. Also in attendance were Assistant Clerk Angel Meriwether, Building Commissioner Norm Casini, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken Labella, Police Chief Brian Sturgill, and Engineer Todd Sciano.

CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOL BEST COMMITTEE

Mayor Bacci introduced the BEST Committee to give a short presentation updating Council on the work that they have been doing concerning the school.

Superintendant Evans stated that working together with the community leaders makes both of us better. He said that everyone in this administration has been very helpful, and they are very easy to work with. If he ever has a question the Mayor and his administration are right there willing to help. It is a great relationship, and that is what helps to continue to make our school system great. He also wanted everyone to know that cooperation with the Cuyahoga Hts. Police Department is second to none, and they work hand in hand to keep our school safe. He thanked everyone in the community for all the help and cooperation that they receive.

Mr. Evans introduced Dr. Clarris of the BEST Committee to go over some points of strategic planning from the committee.

Dr. Clarris went over the Report Card results from the State. Some of the highlights are that the school is ranked one of the best school districts in the State. In the Top 100 list of schools in the State, we are ranked number 72, but we are always looking to get better.

We are looking for grant money from ODE to improve our classrooms and labs. Currently we are looking at furniture and fixtures.

He thanked Mr. Evans for all the work that he does and the input that he gives them to become better.

The BEST Committee has been a part of the school district for the last five years. The first five years it was an advisory committee for the Superintendent. As of last June, it has moved from an advisory committee to a strategic planning committee. They take their recommendations to the Superintendent, and he will then take them to the school board. This is very different from being just an advisory board.

It was explained to Council that there are six Pillars of education that the board looks at, Academic, Community Outreach, Enrollment, Safety, Finance, and Student Opportunities. Focusing on the Academic Pillar, our school district is 39th out of 619 school districts in the State of Ohio, which is a remarkable accomplishment for such a small school district.

At the next School Board Meeting on October 16th the entire meeting will be on enrollment in our district. Our school district is so small that a loss of even five students could have an adverse effect. At this meeting we will be talking about the demographics of the three communities that make up the enrollment of the schools, and we will also be reviewing the tuition program.

On November 16th, the focus of the entire meeting will be on the creation of a Capital Improvement Plan. It will be a multiyear plan that will include evaluation on the heating and air conditioning, all the electrical components, technology, the Natatorium, and furniture. The school is a beautiful old building, but there are pieces that need to be taken care of. This meeting will focus on keeping and improving the beauty of the grounds and building, both inside and out.

At the December Board of Education meeting, we will then be submitting our recommendations.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Nothing at this time.

PERMITS:

None at this time.

PURCHASES:

None at this time.

MINUTES:

September 13, 2017 September 13, 2017 Council Caucus Council Meeting

Ms. Henley will make the motion, seconded by Ms. Harris.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

R.I.T.A Preliminary Report October 2017 Cash Position Statement September 2017

Ms. Duszynski agreed to make the motion to accept the reports, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

LEGISLATION:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-74

Payment of Certain Claims: \$792,190.42 Payroll General Bills (#52173 - #52320)

Ms. Duszynski agreed to make the motion, Ms. Henley agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-75

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Biro asked Engineer Sciano to explain the scope of the Canal Road project. Mr. Sciano said that it would go from E.49th Street to E. 71st Street. They would also fix the guardrails and berms. Ms. Henley asked if this would fix the standing water problem on Canal Road. Mayor Bacci said it would.

Ms. Biro asked how much of the cost are we applying for. Mr. Sciano said we are going to apply for the total job cost of 2.5 million. The project will cover the span of two years to complete. This way we can incorporate some grant money we received from the County in the project.

Ms. Biro asked if this legislation just allows the Mayor to apply for the money, but it will eventually have to come back to Council for approval if we get the grant. Mr. Sciano said that is correct, this is just an application.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-76

A RESOLUTION DECLARING ONE POLICE VEHICLE AS SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING ITS DONATION TO THE VILLAGE OF KIPTON, OHIO

Ms. Duszynski asked where Kipton Ohio is located. Mayor Bacci said it is a small community where Mr. James McManus is the Police Chief.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-77

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MUTUAL AID USER AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS TO SUMMIT COUNTY'S REGIONAL 800 Mhz RADIO SYSTEM FOR MUTUAL AID

Ms. Henley asked for an explanation of the legislation. Chief Sturgill stated that it is an agreement with the County that states that they can listen to our police radio transmissions, and we can listen to theirs. Now we will have a written agreement.

Ms. Biro agreed to make the motion, Ms. Duszynski agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-78

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK TO ENTER INTO A PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CLEVELAND FOR THE CITY'S 800 Mhz DIGITAL RADIO SYSTEM

Mr. Chojnacki explained that it is basically the same as the previous legislation, but with this agreement, there is a cost. Chief Sturgill explained that this is because we are using their system, and they will manage the complete radio system.

Ms. Henley agreed to make the motion, Ms. Duszynski agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-79

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER WITH BURTON SCOT CONTRACTORS, LLC IN CONNECTION WITH THE HARVARD AVENUE REPAIR, RESURFACING AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Ms. Duszynski asked if this changes the scope of the job. Mr. Sciano explained that this is the cleanup from the 2013 Harvard Avenue road contract near Alcoa. Ms. Biro asked about a section of Harvard by the Alcoa Gate, and if it was going to be fixed. Mr. Sciano said that it is being looked at by Public Works to get done next year.

Ms. Biro also asked about the lights by Alcoa, and if they were complete. Mr. Sciano said that they are still working on the light situation with Signal Service, and Alcoa has also asked for some modifications near the crosswalks. We will be working on these issues in the future.

Ms. Biro asked if we need all of the lights on Harvard Avenue. Mayor Bacci explained that they are absolutely needed in that area. There are multiple exits from the different businesses, pedestrian traffic, and intersection traffic. Mr. Sciano agreed, and said they would have to change the crossing habits of the employees to make a difference, but right now we need the signals.

Ms. Biro agreed to make the motion, Ms. Duszynski agreed to second.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

Caucus ended at 6:40pm.

MINUTES VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2017 7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2017

Mayor Bacci called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll. Those present were, Council members Barb Biro, Todd Bloam, Marilyn Duszynski, Cheryl Harris, Lois Henley, and Matt Schoeffler. Also present were Law Director Bill Mason, Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, Engineer Todd Sciano, Building Commissioner Norm Casini, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken Labella, Assistant Clerk Angel Meriwether, Administrative Accounting Assistants Amanda Domzalski and Christina Pace, Administrative Assistant Lee Ann Schoeffler, Service Director Dave Sammons, Head Dispatcher Barb Cash, Police Chief Brian Sturgill, and Fire Chief Mike Suhy.

Mayor Bacci asked for a moment of silence for the people of LasVegas. We have paid tribute to them with the lowering of the flags to half-staff, and it is fitting to honor the people that senselessly lost their lives in this incident.

ROLL CALL: Biro, Bloam, Duszynski, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler

COMMUNICATIONS:

Nothing at this time.

PERMITS:

None at this time.

PURCHASES:

None at this time.

MINUTES:

September 13, 2017 September 13, 2017 Council Caucus Council Meeting

Ms. Henley made the motion to accept the Minutes and put them on file, seconded by Ms. Harris. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

R.I.T.A Preliminary Report October 2017 Cash Position Statement September 2017

Ms. Duszynski made the motion to accept the reports as prepared, seconded by Mr. Bloam. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION:

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

Mr. Bloam made the motion, seconded by Ms. Harris. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-74

Payment of Certain Claims: \$792,190.42 Payroll General Bills (#52173 - #52320)

Ms. Duszynski moved, seconded by Ms. Henley that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-75

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Ms. Harris that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-76

A RESOLUTION DECLARING ONE POLICE VEHICLE AS SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING ITS DONATION TO THE VILLAGE OF KIPTON, OHIO

Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

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Ms. Biro moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-78

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK TO ENTER INTO A PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CLEVELAND FOR THE CITY'S 800 Mhz DIGITAL RADIO SYSTEM

Ms. Henley moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-79

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER WITH BURTON SCOT CONTRACTORS, LLC IN CONNECTION WITH THE HARVARD AVENUE REPAIR, RESURFACING AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Ms. Biro moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. All in favor, none opposed for suspension of the rules. All in favor, none opposed for the adoption, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI:

I would like to convey our deepest sympathies to Law Director Bill Mason and his family. His mother, Martha Ann Mason passed away last month; she was 91 years old.

I had a meeting with FirstEnergy last week as it relates to some of the damaged or abandoned poles in the Village – we constantly email, telephone or meet with them as it relates to these issues – it does not go unattended.

We held our annual flu shot event and breakfast for our seniors on Friday, September 30; once again it was well received! Many of our seniors stayed afterwards and chatted with neighbors they don't normally see. Our department heads and I had a fun time serving them breakfast -- we look forward to this annual event!

I had the honor of marrying Josh Volek and his bride, April Roeble last Saturday, October 7th. Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds.

Congratulations to residents Matt & Vicky Sokolich who celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary today and also to Marty & Kathy Malek who celebrated their 47th wedding

anniversary this past Monday, October 9. "May your marriage be blessed with love, joy and companionship for all the years of your lives."

Milestone birthday wishes to Mrs. Diane Suhy who turned 70 on October 2

October birthday wishes to employees: (2) Asst. Law Director Ben Chojnacki; (4) David Volek; (11) Steve Harris; and (23) Sandy Stover.

Congratulations to CHPD Secretary Debbie Reiger who celebrates her 30th year with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights on October 26th.

Our annual Village Halloween party for resident children and grandchildren will take place on Sunday, October 29 from 2:00-4:00 at Klima Gardens

Trick-or-Treat will take place on Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Our police and fire department personnel will also be out and about town at that time.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7 The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Auditorium. Our Village Hall offices will be closed that day. Exercise your right to vote!

Please continue to keep several residents in your thoughts and prayers: Theresa Bentlejewski, Mrs. Ernestine Deliberato, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Mrs. Helen Leciejewski, Mrs. Donna Pellini, and Mrs. Dorothy Sonoda.

Go Tribe game time is 8:08 p.m. this evening at home – beat those Yankees!

...hope to see everyone at the Corn Roast this Saturday, October 14

Special thanks to all of the employees working on the Corn Roast. Along with the Service Department employees, Police and Fire Employees, and the girls in the Town Hall, everyone is doing a fantastic job, and it looks like we are going to have great weather.

MS. BIRO

We had our Economic Development Meeting this evening, the last one for 2017. Mr. Dennis McAndrew outlined for us the work that they performed for the last couple of months, and also all of the grants that we have received from 2014-2017. If anyone wants a copy, please ask her and she will get it to you. Ms. Biro said that Mr. McAndrew and his firm have done a great job on behalf of the Village, and look forward to working with them next year.

Ms. Biro also submitted the approved Minutes from the last EDC Meeting for the Clerk to place on file.

We will be having a Codified Ordinance Meeting Wednesday, October 25th at 4:45pm.

MR. BLOAM:

Public works had a meeting today, the four projects that we are looking at for 2018 are the Service Department parking lot, E. 71st Street crossover at Rt. 21, Harvard hill by Alcoa, and Canal Road Phase 1. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank Mr. Sciano for all that he does to help our committee move forward on all these projects.

MS. DUSZYNSKI:

On Tuesday September 27th, the Finance Committee approved a PO in the amount of \$11,728.69 to L&M for new software and replace the server.

We had a Finance Committee Meeting tonight which was very informative. Our new CFO for 2018 if approved by Council, Ms. Angel Meriwether informed us of many good ideas that she has for the Finance Department. Ms. Meriwether informed us that after the Corn Roast, she will be working on the 2018 budget to be ready for passage in December of 2017. She also explained that there will not be any changes until the new Accounting Software is put in place which will be in 2018. Ms. Meriwether has a lot of good ideas, and we are very excited about the coming changes for 2018 in the Finance Department.

MS. HARRIS:

A reminder that the Girl Scout Troop is asking for donations for our soldiers, and the box is in the lobby at Town Hall until the end of the month.

There was a presentation at the school that I attended that showed our school in the top 100 in the State, and they also picked a new School Board Member to replace Dr. Holly Thacker, his name is Joe Naymin. They also had a meet the candidate night for all the people running for school board in the upcoming election, there are three positions open, and five people are running. Mayor Bacci asked if all the candidates participated. Ms. Harris said the only candidate that did not attend was Mr. Tom Thacker.

The Mayor, Ms. Henley, Lee Ann Schoeffler, and I met today to go over some preliminary plans for next year's 100th Anniversary. We talked to Advantage Entertainment & Consulting to help

with the plans. We also have a tentative agenda for a two day event, on Friday August 10th and Saturday August 11th. If anyone has any suggestions please let us know.

MS. HENLEY:

One of our previous residents, Mr. Harwood from E. 49th Street passed away today. Also, Janet Pallini's grandson passed away at the age of six. Our sympathy goes out to the Pallini family. John Pallini, a previous resident and Fireman came up from Florida, he is 91 years old.

Ms. Henley asked Mayor to check a light by Ms. Barbara Bartczak's house. The light shines in her house, and maybe it needs to be adjusted. The Mayor said he would have it checked out.

MR. SCHOEFFLER:

Nothing at this time.

SERVICE DIRECTOR DAVE SAMMONS:

Nothing at this time.

HEAD DISPATCHER BARB CASH:

Nothing at this time.

FIRE CHIEF SUHY:

The new ambulance will be delivered this week, and we will get pictures out to everybody. Also, for the next two Sunday, we will be out delivering batteries to the residents for their fire detectors.

CHIEF STURGILL:

Thanked Council for approving the donation of the Police Car to the Village of Kipton Ohio. Chief McManus is very excited to have another car in his department.

LAW DIRECTOR BILL MASON:

Nothing at this time.

CLERK UNGER:

Mr. Unger is very glad that Ms. Meriwether will be making changes to the Finance Department, and believes she will do a great job as CFO. She is very intelligent, and much better looking than him!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR LEE ANN SCHOEFFLER:

Nothing at this time.

ASSISTANT CLERK ANGEL MERIWETHER:

Nothing at this time.

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR BEN CHOJNACKI:

Nothing at this time.

ENGINEER TODD SCIANO:

Nothing at this time.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER NORM CASINI:

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 PACE:

Nothing at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Gary Suchocki from Brooklyn Heights addressed Council on the property owned by his family at the north end of E. 71st Street.

Mr. Suchocki stated that the main reason he is addressing Council is to talk about the fill that the Village wants to put on his property to accommodate the drainage for the Hillside property renovation.

He wanted to go over a letter he sent to the Mayor, and also to put the letter on file for the record. Mr. Suchocki said that the letter starts with saying that it is with great sadness and disappointment that we concede to your mandate for accessing our property at 4661 E. 71st Street for the purposes of dumping fill and installing sewers and drainage to accommodate your plans for the development of the Hillside property. As you may remember, back in 2000, there was a proposal to take the shale that was dug out of the sewer retention tunnels and fill in behind our houses on E. 71st street. Mr. Suchocki always thought it was strange, because why would the water and sewer district try to improve its infrastructure, and then fill up one of the few greenspaces left in our community. Fortunately our mother was able to stop it, and Mill Creek is still a beautiful valley.

Since then, we have the park on E. 49th Street, and we are getting some greenspace back, but in our opinion, we need to leave as much of the greenspace that is native and hasn't been touched the way it is.

As we have said, the Village should grow and be beneficial to all the residents, therefore we are conceding the fill in the back of our property. Although we want to point out that we believe the value of our property goes beyond the tax duplicate, because this project will supply income to the community derived from the increased value of the Hillside property because of the development of that property which was originally owned by my family and we sold it to Hillside. The Village will also see an increase in real estate taxes coming from the development of that property, and also future income tax revenue from the property.

So why does the Village stand to gain from this, yet we are the ones that have to give in. This is the third time we have had to do this. Over the last couple of years, there have been three things. First it was the new building across the street that looks like it is sitting on the curb with no setback. Mr. Suchocki thinks it has less setback than the neighboring houses. Mayor Bacci said you can have your own opinion, but you can't change the facts. The fact is it is the same setback as the building that was there originally. Mr. Suchocki said that it just feels closer to the street because it is wider and taller than the last building.

The second is the island in the street to offset the residential area from the commercial area. The Mayor said it was a break from residential to commercial, but it is also a traffic calming measure. As you are aware, E. 71st Street was being used as a dragstrip, so it slows traffic. Mr. Suchocki is glad the island is there, it's just that its part of our residential property. It seems like you are trying to isolate us from the rest of the residential area. It feels that way to us.

So this fill on our property is the third incident with our property, and it makes us feel like we are being picked on.

Getting back to the letter we sent the Mayor, we indicated that we feel the property is worth more than its tax duplicate because of value it brings the rest of the community, and what we are asking is that you be fair in the consideration that you are going to give us for the use of our property.

We want to be sure that the Village maintains the property, be responsible for any and all liability associated with construction and maintenance of the storm water facility that is now our property. We don't want the EPA to come back 20 years from now and say there is a problem on your property. The Village must take full responsibility in perpetuity for the changes that were made at the end of our property.

We would also like some mitigation to the loss of the trees and woods, and take responsibility for the upkeep. We don't want to see a problem with Ash Borers from trees that you selected, and do nothing to resolve the problem.

Again, we would like the people to recognize the value of the property to the community, and we would like to share in that on a personal basis.

Ms. Harris said that she understands the desire of the Suchocki family to keep the property greenspace, but she wondered what the family was thinking when they sold part of their land to erect the Hillside party Center right next to their house. Mr. Suchocki said he was too young to know, but he did say his great grandmother was born here when this was still Newburgh, and Cuyahoga Heights did not exist yet. She did not have Social Security, and she probably needed the money to live.

Ms. Henley asked if she could get a copy of the letter Mr. Suchocki sent to the Mayor. Mayor Bacci said he would get her and the rest of Council a copy.

Mr. Suchocki thanked Ms. Harris for always being at the School Board Meetings, and bringing the information back to Council. It is very much appreciated.

Ms. Celeste Suchocki stated that she loves the property they own in the Village and is only trying to protect it. It has been passed on in her family from generation to generation, and all we want to do is hang onto it for the next generation.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this Council, Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Ms. Duszynski that the Council Meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed: motion carried.