

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 25, 2017
6:00 PM**

ROLL CALL: BIRO BLOAM DUSZYNSKI HARRIS HENLEY SCHOEFFLER

Mr. Bloam made the motion to excuse Ms. Henley from the Workshop, seconded by Ms. Duszynski. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Bacci told the Council that the letter given to the Mayor at the October Council Meeting from Mr. Suchocki concerning his family's property is being addressed. We are currently waiting on some information from the Engineer. The Mayor and Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki are working on a letter pointing out the inaccuracies of their letter, and their unlawful demands contained in the letter. The letter is still being worked on, and will be forthcoming.

Ms. Biro asked Mayor Bacci if in the letter to Mr. Suchocki, it explains that we appreciate his statements and passion concerning his property. Mayor Bacci said that we are crafting a response, it is 99% done, and we are waiting on some clarification from the Engineer as it relates to any demand that may be genuine or lawful.

The Mayor stated that the letter will be very direct and not as warm and heartfelt as he has been to the family up to this point. The mayor explained to Council the steps and work that he has gone through with them over the course of the last year in good faith and respect to them. It was all laid out in the beginning, and in the twelfth hour we have this very awkward letter and theatrics at the Council Meeting with statements that we are picking on them, and I find this unacceptable. The letter is still being worked on, and it may have a different tone when it is delivered. It is to Gary, and not Celeste or the other family members.

We worked with the family for the better part of a year, and nothing was ever discussed relating to dollars, and now all of a sudden there is a request for all kinds of money related to their property, which are being asked by Mr. Suchocki, who is the School Board President. He is asking for revenue that would ultimately impact the revenue of the School. The Mayor thinks the demands for revenue at this time are bizarre.

Ms. Duszynski believes the Mayor did everything in his power to appease the family for the last year. The Mayor said that Celeste Suchocki is still there, and during negotiations we told them at the beginning of the year that we were on an hourglass, then during the year we moved to a clock, and now we are at a stopwatch, and now we need to make a decision. I have worked with them, our legal team has worked with them, our Service Director has worked with them, and our Engineers have worked with them. We have given them time and respect throughout the year, but now it is time to make a decision, or we will make it for them. The Mayor is not upset that they have concerns, he is upset with them in how they handled it in the end.

The Mayor said Council will see the response letter to the Suchocki family in the near future.

Nicky Boulevard – there is no real news concerning this project. Everything hinges on the next step, and that is the EPA giving us forward movement with the Core of Engineers. If that stops, the whole project stops. Mayor Bacci will continue to give Council updates as they present themselves. We are doing all of our due diligence. All of the notifications are going out to the residents concerning the small pieces of parcels that we need for this project, but again, if the Core of Engineers permit is not satisfied on November 18th, then we go back to square one. The Mayor has contacted them and explained to the EPA that we are up against a deadline with the Core of Engineers, and asked them to expedite the package that we have sent them. We are up against many difficult deadlines, but the EPA knows that we are trying to take this land that has been a negative and turn it into a positive. If they give us a green light, then we move into the next phase.

Ms. Duszynski stated that over the years, we have put a lot of money into this project, and it has gone nowhere. She asked the Mayor if we are closer now than before. The Mayor said that we are closer now than we have ever been, and we have come a long way, but if one little piece falls out, we go back to square one. November 18th is when we will know if we are moving forward.

Nook Industries - Mayor Bacci told Council that he had a great meeting with Nook Industries on E. 49th Street concerning doing some work on their property to construct a two story facility in order to consolidate their engineers and bring new engineers in to the building. Right now it is at the conceptual stage, and Mayor Bacci let them know that Council, the Clerk, and I are all interested in diversifying the Village with new structures, and new opportunities outside of manufacturing. If there is anything the Village can do to facilitate this for them, we will bring their concerns to the Economic Development Committee and get their approval before anything is offered to them.

Mayor Bacci informed Council that we are the recipients of a \$160,000.00 grant for demolition from the Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant Program. We also just recently applied for a County grant to connect the sidewalk on lower E. 49th Street to the Towpath. In my meeting with Nook, they asked about linking the sidewalk with the Towpath so some of their younger employees that live in the Tremont area, or downtown could ride their bikes to work. They were very impressed that we were already looking at this.

Mayor Bacci asked to go into Executive Session for pending litigation. Ms. Duszynski made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schoeffler. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Duszynski made the motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Bloam. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.