

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2018
6:00 PM**

ROLL CALL: BIRO BLOAM CENTA CONTIPELLI HARRIS SCHOEFFLER

Ms. Harris called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll. Those present were, Mayor Bacci, Law Director Bill Mason, Clerk Unger, Barbara Biro, Todd Bloam, Rick Centa, Renato Contipelli, Cheryl Harris, and Matt Schoeffler. Also in attendance were Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, and Chief Financial Officer Angel Meriwether.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) Meeting Schedule: Biro/Contipelli

The Mayor explained that this item for discussion is in reference to the Committee meetings that are scheduled before Workshops and Business Meetings.

I spoke with the chair of the committees, Mr. Bloam, Ms. Biro, and Mr. Contipelli and explained that there is a half hour for each committee to talk, and that this has become problematic when a committee runs over into the time slotted for the next committee. In order to make this more efficient in 2018, I will meet with each committee chair a half hour before their meeting, and if we feel there is something that needs to be brought to the committee body, we will ask the other committee chairs to set aside their time, and we will take up to an hour and a half prior to the council caucus to handle any business with that specific committee.

Mr. Contipelli said that he will continually give his committee updates as needed, and if we see a need for a meeting, we will schedule one taking into consideration everyone's schedules. He doesn't think it makes any sense just to meet without any business to discuss.

Ms. Biro spoke to the Mayor also, and as far as the Finance Committee is concerned, she feels the best way to approach this is to first have a discussion with the Fiscal Officer on any subject that might need attention, such as payments, projects, or deadlines. She stated that if there is a need to have a meeting, we will ask the Fiscal Officer to be in attendance.

Mr. Bloam said that the Public Works Committee will do the same thing. If there is a need to have a meeting we will call one, but he feels at this time that they have a pretty good handle on the projects and needs that will be coming up in 2018. He asked the Mayor for the time slots on all of the committees. Mayor Bacci said the times are on the board, and they are same as last year. Economic Development 4:30pm, Public Works 5:00pm, and Finance 5:30pm.

He explained that he will be in touch with all the heads of each committee to talk and see if there will be a need to bring anything up to the committee as a whole, or the body of Council as it relates to a grant or some other opportunity to bring business or to help business in our Village. I am in touch with all of the Chairs of the Committees on a daily basis and we can work out schedules and meetings as needed. He feels this will help in communication to all the committees.

2) Update on leader boards for ballfields: Schoeffler

The Mayor said he had a meeting with the school Athletic Director, and Superintendent Evans, and everyone wants to do something, but no one knows how. Mr. Chojnacki and the Mayor had a meeting afterwards, and we decided that we are going to work on doing something to facilitate the ballfield through the Community Improvement Corporation, up to and including hiring an outside contractor as a marketing group, and they would go out to solicit people. The Mayor has had phone calls as recent as the last hour from baseball families and business owners that want to make this investment, and buy a sign at the ballfields. These are companies that are not even located in our Village, they feel that they are going to get some real value by advertising at our park. They are just looking for a pathway from legal to be able to do this.

We have a lot of energy from folks that want to do something, but the bottom line is that the Village has made its investment, it is now everyone else's responsibility to step up and show that this ballfield is going to be a place for softball and hardball that the Village fathers can say, let's take it to the next level, because everyone is anxious to be a part of this project. He has talked to the Athletic Boosters at the school, and they want to do something concerning the netting at the dugouts to make them safer, and also the players on the field will be able to see the ball better. What we have told everyone is that we are going to give them something to invest in, and we are going to get these signs sold. As soon as we have something for Council, we will bring it back to you. As of this moment, we have people that want to do something for the ballfields, but we have no clear path on how to do it.

The Mayor's goal has always been to sell signs for a ten year period which he feels is a great investment for any business in the area. But again, we need to find a way to do it legally so we don't have any issues.

Ms. Harris mentioned that we need to make sure the signs will last ten years without having to put any money into refurbishing them. Mayor Bacci said the signs he is looking at have an eight year life, but if we take them down during the winter and store them properly, he doesn't feel that we will have an issue with them needing refurbishing.

Mayor Bacci and Mr. Contipelli had a meeting with the school, and explained that we built these fields for the school district, and for our campus. Ms. Biro said that no matter who plays there, the liability still falls on the Village, and as Mr. Contipelli said, we need to be in control of what happens at the park. Mayor Bacci said that is true. What he wants is for people coming to our Village when they see all of our amenities is to ask themselves why they don't live here, or why their kids are not attending this school.

Mr. Contipelli said that we have invested a lot of money in this park and the ballfields, and he would like to see a resolution from the school for a long term commitment to use our ballfields. He doesn't want to see a new Superintendent or School Board come in and build their own fields behind the school. So he would like to see something from the school showing their commitment. Mayor Bacci said that is something that we will have to talk over with the school.

We are trying to showcase our community as the finest inner ring suburb in Northeast Ohio. Our Village is beautiful, our Village is safe, our Village has a great school system, and our Village has a great park system. So when you are thinking of moving out of downtown or any other community and starting a family, we want you to move here.

Mr. Centa said that he is going to be a part of the open house at the school to showcase our Village and schools to potential students and families. If anyone would like to stop, it is on Sunday from 1-4pm. There will also be representatives from the other Villages. Mayor Bacci said that Lee Ann made up some pamphlets for Mr. Centa to pass out, and mentioned to Mr. Centa to make sure they check us out on our website. Paying students are very important for our schools. We need class sizes at or about 60 kids, and we have a couple at 40 or below. We are talking to Walton Hills to see if there is something they can do to subsidize their resident's tuition. We feel that there is some interest in that idea at this time.

3) Mayors updates:

The Mayor wanted to bring some ideas to Council that he and Ms. Meriwether are talking about for the Service Department. These are all budgeted items for 2018.

- 1) Refurbishing the garbage truck. There was some discussion on what the needs are for the truck, and if we should lease one instead of investing money in the one we have. Mayor Bacci explained that our truck is in good shape, has very low miles, and would be worth the investment. At the end of the day, it was decided to refurbish the one we have at a cost of \$50,180.00, and rent one while the work is getting done. Ms. Biro asked legal to

determine if this needs to go out for bids, or if the company doing the work is considered a sole supplier. Mayor Bacci said he would find out before it comes to Council.

- 2) Purchasing a mower for the ballfields. It is basically the same type of mower you use on golf courses, at a cost of \$30,000.00.
- 3) Finance will see a \$12,778.00 upgrade to the kitchen at the Service Department. This has not been done for 40 years, and TriMark SS Kemp is going to outfit the whole kitchen with new appliances.
- 4) Finance will also see a purchase order for \$9,388.00 for painting the interior rooms at the Police Station. They have not been painted since 2006, and they are starting to look shabby.

The only other issue that the Mayor needed to bring to Council for discussion, needs to be addressed in Executive Session as it relates to the project on E.49th Street. Engineer Sciano is not here today, but that project continues to move along.

The EPA had three small revisions, and helped us on how to resolve them. This is not how they have treated us in the past. In the past, they were not so cordial, everything we asked to do was met with a hard no. We have gotten all the paperwork from all of the residents signing on to the project, and we are ready to move forward.

The beautification of the bridges was brought up over E.49th and also the one on Grant Avenue. The Mayor said that this project has been on his list since 2008, unfortunately if we are going to move forward with fixing and painting them we have to pay for the work ourselves, the railroad will not help us. They say they have 30,000 bridges, and it is almost impossible to keep all of them up unless they are in total disrepair. The Mayor said that in the spring we will go up there and paint them. They are a nightmare.

I had a meeting with the Centennial Committee, and everything looks good. We will be seeing a contract soon to get the acts and vendors in line for the August event. Ms. Biro asked if we will be getting legislation on all the contractual agreements. Mayor Bacci said yes, the legislation will be coming to Council for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Schoeffler made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Contipelli. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

