

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2021
7:00 PM**

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Before the meeting, Ms. Darnella Robinson from First Energy addressed the Council with information concerning changing all of the village's street lights to LED lights.

Ms. Robinson said that LED lights last longer and are more environmentally conscious. The current lights that we have will eventually become obsolete, and we will not be able to replace them.

The new lights would cost \$242.00 per light, and they do financing or you can pay up front. Mr. Contipelli thinks there is a possibility of getting grant money. Ms. Robinson said she will get the Council more information next week.

The Pest Control contract was also discussed. Mr. Schoeffler asked if we looked at getting any bids from other companies for next year. Mayor Bacci said that he has been in contact with this company, and that all work is being documented. The Mayor said that he is going to change the procedure for residents to contact the company, and he will be sending the policy out next week.

Mayor calls the meeting to order:

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter from the Charter Review Committee to Mayor and Council. The committee has asked that the letter be made a part of the Minutes.

Mr. Bloam made the motion to accept the communications and place them on file, seconded by Mr. Centa. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

PERMITS:

None at this time.

PURCHASES:

Finance Approval Req 21-ENG-24-A E 71st at Rt21~I-77N Corridor Water Samples not to exceed \$15,000

MINUTES:

October 13, 2021 Council Meeting

The Charter Review Committee has asked that the letter be placed on file as part of the Minutes.

Mr. Centa made the motion to accept the minutes as prepared, seconded by Mr. Contipelli. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Statement of Cash Position October 2021
RITA Preliminary report November 2021

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-64

Payment of Certain Claims: \$827,315.35
Payroll
General Bills
Transfers

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-65

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF BRAD M. BEAULIEU AS A POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, OHIO

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-66

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-67

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND A CHANGE OF SCOPE TO THE NICKY BOULEVARD STORM SEWER EXTENSION AND SLOPE STABILIZATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-68

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER TO THE 5047 EAST 71ST STREET
DEMOLITION AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Mr. Centa 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, and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI:

Tomorrow is Veterans Day...and 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!

Our second Halloween Drive-Thru was a success and well received. Residents again reached out to us and complimented on what a great event—many liked it better than the Halloween party of the past.

We did have a request on election day to extend the Halloween hours for a full two hours, and we will take that into consideration as we move into fall of 2022.

With that being said... we are moving forward with Santa visiting our resident children on Sunday, December 19th. A letter will be going out to our residents with information next week along with the Neighborhood News. We will again advise our residents that they will be able to stand in front of the sleigh—instead of sitting in the sleigh – just like we did last year (COVID).

Mr. Schoeffler asked if there was any way grandparents can purchase a stocking for their grandkids, and have it delivered from Santa. Mayor Bacci said they will not have to buy anything, we will include them in the gift giving, and we will send out a letter to all the residents explaining the change.

We will also have our annual Christmas lighting contest that evening.

Special birthday wishes to Miss Delia Trevisani who will celebrate her “91st birthday” next Wednesday, November 17th.

November birthday wishes to employees:

November 1 - Pat Koran & Tom Nova

November 10 - Tom Kekelis

Nov. 27 - Clerk Unger; and (28) Mark Hine.

I want to thank my colleagues and residents for their support in last week’s election. I am very blessed and humbled to be serving our community again for another four years.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving holiday. The Village Hall & Service Department will be closed on November 25 and 26.

MR. BLOAM:

Nothing at this time.

MR. CENTA:

Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

MR. CONTIPELLI:

Mr. Contipelli asked Mr. Sciano how we are doing with the fill on E.71st Street, he sees a lot of activity going on. Mr. Sciano said that the house is down, and about 15% of the fill is in. We are fighting a cleveland water leak, and he said between that and the weather, we will have to suspend operations for the winter.

Mayor Bacci received notification from the Water Department that they were working on a solution for the repair of the leak, unfortunately it is not being done at the speed we want. Mr. Sciano will follow up and report back to Council.

Mr. Contipelli wants everyone walking their dogs to have them on a leash, or the police will give you a ticket.

MS. HENLEY:

Ms. Henley asked if the seniors could receive the \$6,000.00 that was scheduled in the 2021 budget. Mayor Bacci said he will check on it tomorrow and get back to her.

She asked Chief Sturgill if a church group has to have a permit before going door to door. Chief Sturgill said if they are not selling anything, they do not need a permit. Ms. Henley asked if there were certain hours that they could go door to door. Chief Sturgill said he will check, and get back to her tomorrow. Mr. Schoeffler found in the Ordinances that the hours are 9am to 9pm.

If anyone knows anyone that needs a Thanksgiving dinner, please give Holy Name a call, and they will deliver them a dinner. So far, 675 people have signed up.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

MS. HARRIS:

Nothing at this time.

MR. SCHOEFFLER:

Mr. Schoeffler noticed that there is a lot of jake braking going on with the Charter Steel trucks, and asked if there is a no jake brake sign on E.49th Street. Mayor Bacci said he believes there is a no jake brake policy in the residential areas, but will look into it and get back to Mr. Schoeffler.

POLICE CHIEF STURGILL:

Thanked all the veterans for their service.

Thanked Council for his new hire. He is a good man, a good cop, from a good family.

SERVICE DIRECTOR DAVE SAMMONS:

There was a leak test done on the pool liner, and we found two leaks that were easily fixable. We will make the necessary repairs for next year.

FIRE CHIEF SUHY:

The power cot is installed and working, and hopefully none of us will have to see it!

LAW DIRECTOR BEN CHOJNACKI:

Nothing to report.

CLERK UNGER:

Thanked everyone for their support at last week's election.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR LEE ANN SCHOEFFLER:

Nothing at this time.

ENGINEER TODD SCIANO:

Nothing to report.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER NORM CASINI:

Wished everyone a healthy, happy, and safe Thanksgiving.

ASSISTANT BUILDING COMMISSIONER KEN LABELLA:

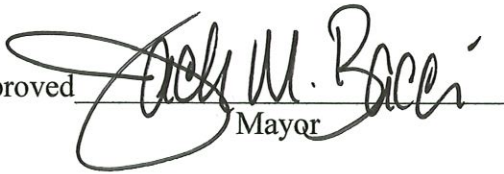
Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Dave Volek thanked everyone for their support in the election, and also thanked all of the candidates for running a clean friendly campaign. He also thanked Mayor Bacci for running a clean campaign, unlike his opponent who stooped to new lows in our village.


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

Approved


Mayor


Mayor and or President of Council

On December 8, 2021


Clerk of Council

OPEN LETTER TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS:

A brief history of the Charter Review Committee: In 2008, Mayor Jack Bacci suggested to the village council that they consider enacting legislation creating a "charter review committee." An ordinance was introduced and passed thus creating the committee. Since 2008, the committee has met as required by codified ordinance once every four (4) years.

In 2020, the pandemic delayed the committee's work and subsequently the eight member committee met in June 2021.

It came to our attention that a Charter Review Committee member has decided to mislead our residents, falsely representing the 2021 committee's actions. This committee member came woefully unprepared to meetings and when given ample opportunity to do research for a third meeting missed a deadline imposed by the committee. He has now impugned the character of every other committee member. This appears to be a personal vendetta.

We, the seven (7) other members of the 2021 Charter Review Committee want you to know the truth/facts regarding our work this past summer:

- * We sat with the Mayor for a short while as he advised us of some 'housekeeping issues' within the charter that should be considered as recommendations to the village council;
- *We then discussed those items, some members shared their research findings and gave individual consideration to the matter of term limits;
- *Each member shared his or her ideas/opinions—none had spoken prior to our meetings.

An overwhelming vote of 7 to 1 was made **AGAINST TERM LIMITS** for an assortment of reasons which can be discussed with any resident who cares to call upon any of us.

The issue of changing verbiage to "CFO" from 'clerk' as it relates to the **sewer and storm water management fund** is a no brainer since the CFO handles all financial matters and has done so since the inception of her position. Vote: 8-0

The recommendation to put to the voters the **elimination of the elected clerk's position** is also something that may be overdue since the inception of the CFO position and the minimization of the clerk's duties to basic clerical tasks. Vote: 8-0

OPEN LETTER TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS:

The introduction of the opportunity for **lateral transfers** to our safety departments was a logical next step to add to the hiring practice as recommended by the law director. Although everyone supported this, we are not certain if the vote was 8-0 or 7-1

Each member had over a year to review the Charter. We attended our meetings, gave thoughtful consideration to each item and voted to recommend these three issues to the Village Council—who then put them on the ballot for your vote.

By the way—our mayor did not “block” anything and we are not sure what power may have been abused. The mayor wasn’t in the room during our committee discussions. Would one not **question** what was “blocked” and what was the alleged “abuse of what power?” Those other items, full v. part-time mayor; mayor presiding over council meetings; etc. are not addressed or included in our village charter. We believe they are handled under the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights.

We seven (7) were not interested in re-writing our Charter nor was it our job since it has served our village well over one hundred years including multiple mayors, councils and our citizens! Obviously, you saw this too.

Never believe that we did not properly vet these items that were referred to council—we can show you our research if you’d like to see it.

Respectfully yours - the *volunteer* **Charter Review Committee - 2021**

Michael Cimperman Russell Hartman Marilyn Duszynski

Laura Merhaut Norman Merhaut

Wendy Santiago Susan Tucholski