

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
December 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2023

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CONTIPELLI CALLED CAUCUS TO ORDER at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR BACCI CALLED ROLL CALL: Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Henley, Volek

Mr. Unger is excused from Caucus for a wake.

Council President Contipelli asked council if there were any questions about the agenda this evening.

Mr. Volek asked why Resolution No. 2023-89 was pulled from the agenda.

Law Director Chojnacki explained that Resolution No. 2023-89 had both body camera and fleet contracts for Axon within and decided to appropriately break it up. Resolution No. 2023-90 is the Axon contract for fleet cameras and Resolution No. 2023-91 is the Axon contract for the body cameras. Resolution No. 2023-89 was deemed unnecessary.

Mr. Contipelli asked Ben to explain Resolution No. 2023-92.

Law Director Chojnacki stated that basically this moratorium is a 6-month hold on commercial selling of marijuana in the village until the state of Ohio gives rules and regulations; this moratorium does not outlaw the use and home-growing in the village, just the commercial sales. Mr. Contipelli asked if council should investigate the passing of legislation to create a zone and additional taxes for businesses and before the 6-months is up. Law Director Chojnacki responded that the village can create amendments to zoning districts and the State of Ohio does have a prohibition on additional taxes for the sale of marijuana. Mayor Bacci responded that while the village already has specific codes for retail companies, we can look into it further as to the areas where potential businesses can be.

Mayor Bacci discussed the empty Bletch Court home and its current condition—and that possibly there are items that can be donated to Habitat for Humanity. He is working with CFO Meriwether and Service Director Sammons on this project.

Mayor Bacci also updated council on the vacant 901 Harvard Avenue property repairs that included wrapping the windows and capping the top of the parapet wall to keep the building in good condition until a business comes in.

Mayor Bacci discussed the Flock cameras around town and noted that the first phase will be the streets; the second phase at Bacci Park and around the trails along with the village hall campus area. If the cameras end up working well at the park, we could extend it to our commercial businesses that would want to have another piece of protection for their properties.

Discussion of the future pickleball court placement was discussed, as well as an update on the Willowbrook Connector.

CFO Meriwether advised council that starting in January there will be information in the agendas for the splash pad and campus approvals. All project updates will be communicated to council and included in the village newsletters.

Caucus ended at 5:32 p.m.

MAYOR BACCI CALLED THE COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR BACCI CALLED ROLL CALL: Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Henley, Unger, Volek

COMMUNICATIONS: None at this time.

PERMITS: None at this time.

PURCHASES:

23-SD-188-A Approval for the purchase of a new dumpster not to exceed \$16,108.

23-SD-192-A Approval for Pool Pipe and Gutter Replacement by DiFranco Plumbing not to exceed \$25,000.

23-SD-196-A Approval for repairs to 901 Harvard Avenue by David Miller Construction not to exceed \$8,300.

MINUTES:

November 8, 2023 Council Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as prepared and place them on file. Mr. Bloam made the motion to accept the minutes as prepared, seconded by Mr. Centa. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS:

Position of Cash October 2023
Position of Cash November 2023
RITA Final Report November 2023

Motion to accept the financial reports as prepared and place them on file. Mr. Centa made the motion to accept the financial reports as prepared, seconded by Mr. Contipelli. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-81 Second Reading

October Payment of Certain Claims and Transfers
\$3,730,471.78

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-87

November Payment of Certain Claims and Transfers
\$ 1,932,062.57

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-88

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE'S CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE SO AS TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FROM THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

RESOLUTION NO: 2023-90

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC., FOR FLEET CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

RESOLUTION NO: 2023-91

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.,
FOR BODY CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-92

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
ISSUING ZONING CERTIFICATES FOR ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, USE OR
CHANGE OF USE THAT WOULD ENABLE THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING,
DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF ADULT USE CANNABIS, CANNABIS, OR MARIJUANA,
FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE VILLAGE
TO REVIEW APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND TO PLAN FOR
REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUCH USES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-93

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN ENGINEER FOR
THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS FOR 2024 AND 2025, FIXING
COMPENSATION THEREFORE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

RESOLUTION NO: 2023-94

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE
WILLOWBROOK CONNECTOR PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION NO: 2023-95

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE
WILLOWBROOK TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI: Congratulations to CFO Meriwether for receiving the Ohio Auditor State award at the Cuyahoga Heights Community Improvement Corporation meeting for excellence in finance reporting in 2022. This is an honor to receive and be recognized by the state auditor, congratulations Angel!

Madam Councilwoman Lois Henley – thank you for your combined 31+ years of service as a councilwoman of Cuyahoga Heights. Beginning her career in 1986, leaving from 2011 and returning in 2014 and finishing out her council days up until today. Ms. Henley has been and will always remain the ultimate public servant to Cuyahoga Heights, spending countless hours with the seniors, youth committees, and for everyone in the village—and has always been greatly appreciated. Wishing her all the best and remain healthy and safe!

Thank you to the employees of Charter Steel and MilliporeSigma for their generosity as they reached out to our offices again and helped out with a few families this holiday season.

Also, thank you to the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department for participating in this year’s Shop with a Cop Program. This Saturday, December 16, they will take 20 children from the village and who belong to the FOP Lodge and travel to Walmart in Macedonia. Thank you again Chief Sturgill and members of our police department—please know we appreciate their efforts.

This Sunday, December 17, Santa will be at Bacci Park, please have your children and grandchildren stop by and visit at or about 11:00 a.m. Also, a reminder for everyone to turn their lights on at their homes for our annual Christmas Lighting Contest that evening. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

December birthday wishes to employees: (8) Jesse James; (15) Diane Simmons; (16) Damon Schreiber; (19) Michael Petti and (30) Frank Trusso. Wishing them all a Happy Birthday this holiday season.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—and I ask everyone to stop and take a moment and think of all who aren’t here with us this year.

MR. BLOAM: Thanked Councilwoman Henley for her service.

MR. CENTA: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Also, thanked Councilwoman Henley for her service.

MR. CONTIPELLI: Thanked Councilwoman Henley for her dedicated service throughout her years. It takes a lot to serve 30+ years! Our families will always be friends and wish you the best.

MS. HENLEY: Thank you everybody. God bless everyone and I hope everyone has a blessed holiday. I am only a telephone call away.

MR. UNGER: Congratulations to CFO Meriwether and her position as CFO as it is not an easy task but she is doing great! Councilwoman Lois – 31 years is a lot in this village and she will be missed on council. Merry Christmas.

MR. VOLEK: Merry Christmas to everyone and congratulations to Angel. Congratulations to Lois and her legacy here and good luck.

POLICE CHIEF STURGILL: Thank you to the Cuyahoga Heights Middle School classroom 308 and the nice group of kids that had some of our first responders over this morning for coffee. There will be some activity at the school for the invitational wrestling event this Saturday December 16. Congratulations to CFO Meriwether and Councilwoman Henley – we will miss you.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SAMMONS: Councilwoman Henley – this isn't goodbye as I know you will be calling me. Congratulations to CFO Meriwether – amazing CFO!

LAW DIRECTOR CHOJNACKI: Councilwoman Henley – thank you for your service and congratulations. CFO Meriwether – congratulations.

CFO MERIWETHER: Councilwoman Henley – it's been a pleasure. Thank you to everyone for your nice compliments. It isn't just me, it's my department who earned this award.

ADMIN. ASST. TO THE MAYOR SCHOEFFLER: Councilwoman Henley – I have known you my entire life and you have done well for this village. You will be missed, but I know we will continue to see you at the corn roasts on the megaphone! Good luck and stay healthy!


ASST. BUILDING COMMISSIONER LABELLA: Councilwoman Henley – congratulations on your years of service. Merry Christmas to everyone!

BUILDING COMMISSIONER CASINI: Congratulations to Councilwoman Henley. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and healthy and pass it on, "Nothing good happens after midnight!"

VILLAGE ENGINEER SCIANO: Council - thank you for the support in the appointment. Congratulations for Councilwoman Henley and CFO Meriwether.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this council, Ms. Henley moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam that the council meeting be adjourned at 6:29 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed, motion carried.

Approved 

Mayor

On December 13, 2023

Renato Contipelli
Renato Contipelli (Jan 12, 2024 08:45 EST)

Mayor and or President of Council



Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council