

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
January 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2024

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

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

Mr. Contipelli welcomed Mr. Schoeffler back to council and asked if he had any questions about the legislation.

Mr. Centa inquired about an issue with the property on Harvard Avenue. Engineer Sciano advised that there is a sewer maintenance matter that needs to be looked into further.

Mr. Contipelli also asked council to resume his position as Council President for 2024.

Mayor Bacci asked Mr. Centa to continue to be our school liaison, as well as taking the role of our senior citizens liaison, which had been previously handled by Ms. Henley. Mr. Schoeffler will be placed on the Health and Housing Stock committees, as well as taking Mr. Contipelli's place on the Public Works Committee.

The mayor asked each council member to find a resident who would like to be appointed to the Charter Review Committee; he will pick two residents as well to serve on the committee. He asked that the information be given to him prior to the February council meeting. In addition, the mayor advised council that they will appoint the Pool and Concession Stand Managers at the February council meeting.

The mayor noted that while talking with Mr. Contipelli, if there are any concerns for a council workshop, a meeting will then be held. He also mentioned that he and Ms. Schoeffler are working with CFO Meriwether and Village Engineer Sciano on a letter to residents and businesses concerning project updates. Most importantly, the traffic on East 71st Street will be difficult, especially when school is in session. A separate mailer will be going out to the residents about trail updates, possible exercise stations at the park, and the Grant Avenue road project.

The mayor noted that in the 2024 village calendar there was an error stating that there will be an Arbor Day celebration. This event is held every two years—in the odd years, so the next celebration will be April 2025. He asked council to advise any residents who inquire about the event.

Mayor Bacci turned the meeting over to Law Director Chojnacki for a more in-depth detail about the investigative reporters and our December Mayor's Court. Law Director Chojnacki explained that The Marshall Project is an organization that examines inequities within courts. The founder of The Marshall Project, Mark Puente, along with a reporter from News Channel 5 inquired about how we processed our December 2023 Mayor's Court and made a few public record requests. We have responded and provided all requested documents and have made our Village Magistrate Dean

DePiero available, who will speak to Mr. Puente in the near future. Mayor Bacci also added that our court is for traffic violations, nothing higher than that. Our December court had 25 people and the gift cards were donated to St. Hermans House in downtown Cleveland by the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.

Mayor Bacci asked CFO Meriwether to give Mr. Centa a quick overview of the Charter Steel Enterprise Zone. CFO Meriwether stated that the Enterprise Zone is a tax incentive that the village gives companies for economic development in which the company brings in a certain amount of jobs to the village, in return—the village gives them a tax incentive on their property taxes. She further noted that we have a committee that reviews this every year, and also we do a community cost share working with our schools to offset their loss on property tax to make sure the school is whole. We currently have one that is up and running and another that will be coming up within the next 24 months.

Councilman Centa wanted to know what a LUCAS device is for the Fire Department. Mayor Bacci stated that a LUCAS device provides mechanical chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest, it is used as an alternative to manual CPR because it provides consistent compressions at a fixed rate through potentially difficult transport conditions and eliminates the physical strain on the person performing CPR. The village received a grant through Firehouse Subs in a prior application round to purchase a LUCAS device for one ambulance. If awarded, the current application would allow for grant funds to purchase an additional LUCAS device to be placed in another vehicle.

Mayor Bacci noted that there are numerous businesses that are looking to join the community as it relates to the Hillside property; we just want to make sure that it is the best fit for the community.

He also mentioned that Expert Crane has left their facility as they outgrew it. However, they leased their building to Motion Industries for a 5-year lease and our building department is working with them on an occupancy permit.

Also, a Cleveland Water Department contractor is to begin work on January 22 to repair the 30” main leak on East 71st Street just north of the 1-77 ramp; the work is going to take approximately two weeks.

Mayor Bacci also advised council that we received a grant from DOPWIC for the Grant Avenue project which will be about \$286,000 savings to the village. However, the project will not start until July 1 and will continue for 365 days; noting that all traffic will be directed to go south on East 71st Street.

Mayor Bacci noted that Building Commissioner Casini has been home and recovering from hip surgery which he had on December 27 and is doing well.

Caucus ended at 5:38 p.m.

Before the meeting, Mayor Bacci swore in Councilmen Contipelli, Centa and Schoeffler.

MAYOR BACCI CALLED THE COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER at 6:07 p.m.

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

Chief Fiscal Officer Meriwether and Clerk of Council opened nominations for Council President for 2024.

Mr. Bloam made the motion to nominate Mr. Contipelli for Council President, seconded by Mr. Centa. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

COMMUNICATIONS: Thank you card from Becky Lepkowski for her village scholarship.

PERMITS: None at this time.

PURCHASES: None at this time.

MINUTES:

December 13, 2023 Council Meeting

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

FINANCE REPORTS:

Position of Cash December 2023
RITA Final Report December 2023

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

December Payment of Certain Claims and Transfers
\$1,000,204.73

Mr. Schoeffler moved, seconded by Mr. Unger, that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, 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. 2024-02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF ROETZEL & ANDRESS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025, CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A
BUILDING COMMISSIONER AND ARCHITECT FOR THE VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA
HEIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025;
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH GENTILE LAW, LLC FOR PROSECUTORIAL LEGAL
SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2024
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT DEAN DEPIERO
TO SERVE AS MAGISTRATE FOR THE CUYAHOGA
HEIGHTS MAYOR'S COURT; 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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER TO THE NICKY
BOULEVARD LANDFILL PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION. 2024-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT AND THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE “PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION” (“PIPE”) PROGRAM

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-08

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A 2024 VILLAGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS RESIDING IN THE VILLAGE

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER FOR VILLAGE HALL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, PHASE 1

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SNIDER RECREATION, INC. FOR SPLASH PAD MATERIAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BOB CHAPMAN FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2023 FORD EXPLORER SUVs WITH POLICE UPFITS AND EQUIPMENT AT STATE CONTRACT PRICING

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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

ORDINANCE 2024-12

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH GARLAND/DBS, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF ROOFING SERVICES AND MATERIALS AT KLIMA GARDENS UNDER THE MASTER COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH COOPERATIVE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND EQUALIS GROUP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

RESOLUTION 2024-13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE WILLOWBROOK TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION 2024-14

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE WILLOWBROOK CONNECTOR PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE 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, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for suspension of the rules, motion carried. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye for the adoption, motion approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for Engineering Study & Package Treatment Plan Design for 901 Harvard Avenue not to exceed \$40,000.

Mr. Volek moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam to approve the motion. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye, none opposed, motion approved.

2024-2026 Committee Appointments

Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Mr. Centa to approve the motion. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger and Volek voting aye, none opposed, motion approved.

Economic Development Committee

Renato Contipelli, *Chairman*

Todd Bloam

Rick Centa

Finance Committee

Bob Unger, *Chairman*

Todd Bloam

Rick Centa

Health Insurance Committee

Bob Unger, *Chairman*

Matthew Schoeffler

Dave Volek

- Fire Department Representative

- Police Department Representative

- Service Department Representative

Housing Stock Rehabilitation Committee

Rick Centa

Matthew Schoeffler

Public Works/Building Committee

Todd Bloam, *Chairman*

Matthew Schoeffler

Dave Volek

Zoning Board of Appeals & Planning Commission

Jack Bacci, *Chairman*

Todd Bloam

Angel Meriwether

Shireen Mitchell

Bobby Santiago

Kathy Unger

Community Development Committee (formerly Master Plan Committee)

Todd Bloam, *Chairman*

Jack Bacci

Angel Meriwether

Shireen Mitchell

Dave Volek

Cuyahoga County Tax Incentive Review Council

Rick Centa

Bob Unger

Historical Committee

Mark Chase, *Chairman*

Barb Bartczak

Brian Derbin

Kathy Grattino

Laura Hine

School/Youth Liaison – Rick Centa

Senior Citizens Liaison – Rick Centa

Village Records Commission

Jack Bacci

Ben Chojnacki

Laura Merhaut

Angel Meriwether

Public Records Committee

Jack Bacci

Ben Chojnacki

Christina Caporuscio

Mindy Armbrust

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI: Happy 10th Birthday to Councilman Schoeffler's son, Jameson, who is in the audience with his family.

Congratulations to Mr. Centa, Mr. Contipelli, and Mr. Schoeffler on their re-election to council, and I look forward to working with all of you.

I wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope everyone's holiday was really blessed. I was able to spend time away with Lily, Madison and Brenna which was great.

January birthday wishes to employes: (9) Councilman Renato Contipelli; (16) James Henley; and (19) Brian Fragua.

MR. BLOAM: Congratulations to Mr. Schoeffler; I look forward to working with him again. Congratulations to Mr. Contipelli and Mr. Centa.

MR. CENTA: Thank you to everyone who voted and for his re-election; I look forward to working with everyone again. Also, as much as it pains to say this, congratulations to Michigan on their win and go Browns!

MR. CONTIPELLI: Thank you to my colleagues for the council president nomination. Also I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Jack Squirek; he was a great teammate back in the day and a big presence in the community of Seven Hills.

MR. SCHOEFFLER: Congratulations to Council President Contipelli. A couple of our younger residents have spoken to him about a “TG Club” which he believes to be the popular card trading game “Pokemon”. He can bring up more information during a future council workshop. Thank you for your consideration and thank you to the residents for voting him into council again.

MR. UNGER: Congratulations to the re-elected officials and congrats to our rival Michigan. As a true Browns fan, I say “wait till next year and go Browns.”

MR. VOLEK: Congratulations to all and go Browns!

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SAMMONS: Happy Birthday Jameson and congratulations to all. Go Big Blue and go Browns!

FIRE CHIEF SUHY: Congratulations everyone and go Browns!

LAW DIRECTOR CHOJNACKI: Happy birthday and congratulations for everyone’s reappointment. Thank you for my re-appointment as well!

CFO MERIWETHER: Congratulations to all the re-elected officials.

ADMIN. ASST. TO THE MAYOR SCHOEFFLER: Congratulations to all the re-elected officials and happy 10th birthday to my Godson, Jameson.


ASST. BUILDING COMMISSIONER LABELLA: Congratulations to all the re-elected officials. Update on Mr. Casini—his surgery went well, and he is recovering fantastically!

VILLAGE ENGINEER SCIANO: Congratulations to all the re-elected officials and I look forward to working with everyone. Go Browns!

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

Mayor Bacci asked Jameson Schoeffler to come up and assist him with the gavel in closing the meeting.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this council, Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Mr. Contipelli that the council meeting be adjourned at 6:28 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed, motion carried.


Approved 

Mayor

Renato Contipelli
Renato Contipelli (Feb 16, 2024 11:40 EST)

Mayor and or President of Council

On January 10, 2024



Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council












January Council Meeting Minutes - correction!

Final Audit Report

2024-02-16

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