

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING

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MR. CONTIPELLI CALLED CAUCUS TO ORDER at 5:08 p.m.

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

Mr. Contipelli asked if there were any questions with the agenda.

Mr. Contipelli asked council to look at the numerous motions that were on the agenda and asked Law Director Chojnacki, if possible, can we make one motion to approve them all. Mr. Chojnacki responded that the purpose of reading them during caucus will make it so that during the council meeting they wouldn't have to read each one.

CFO Meriwether asked if council would consider adjusting the purchasing agents authority, thus the reason for the excessive amount of motions on the agenda. Law Director Chojnacki reminded council that the current threshold for purchases between \$5,000-\$25,000 needs finance committee approval and purchases \$25,000.01-\$50,000 needs a motion by council. What council can agree to is adjust the finance committee approval to be \$25,000-\$75,000; legislative approval to be \$75,000-\$150,000 with 3 quotes and competitive bidding will be anything above \$150,000. With council support a review will be done and a new policy and legislation will be coming in the future.

Mr. Contipelli asked if we were going to get the \$75,000 grant from the sewer district. Village Engineer Sciano responded that yes, the village will be getting the grant.

Mayor Bacci stated that Chief Sturgill provided the answers that Mr. Centa previously had concerning the streetlights. The mayor reminded council that depending on the location of the light poles, it can cause confusion on who is responsible for them – the village or the state.

Mayor Bacci asked if council had anyone in mind for the Charter Review. Mr. Schoeffler responded that he did, and Mr. Unger noted that he may have someone in mind. The mayor asked if they could please email his office the names of those they choose. Mr. Contipelli asked the mayor if council can pass legislation next year to prolong the Charter Review. Law Director Chojnacki stated that they can eliminate the review or prolong it to 10 years. Mr. Contipelli asked if they can pass legislation to eliminate it this year. Mr. Chojnacki stated that council can pass legislation to do so if they wanted. Mr. Contipelli told the Mayor that this is something to look into this year.

Mayor Bacci stated that since February 1, the village had officially acquired the Toscana Hall property and our service department has been cleaning up the area, landscaping, and taking down the signs—assuring council that there are plans to put up a new plaque to memorialize our heritage of our community. The disappointment of the care of the building is extremely

upsetting. Since the village has taken over, Service Director Sammons and Assistant Service Director Baciak and their crew have cleaned it up to an extent. Our fire department has been active at the property to make sure everything is up to code and Mr. Sagan from our service department has been tending to the HVAC. If council would like to tour the property, the mayor can make a plan to do so.

The building at 4911 Grant Avenue (formerly Alacriant) was recently sold to Spcrete who have a total of 15 employees. The company manufacture additives which are designed and packaged specifically for underground construction applications, including piling, earth retention, high mobility grouting and tremie concrete. Currently, their facility is located at 10703 Quebec in Cleveland.

Howmet Aerospace will start negotiations this week with the United Autoworkers (UAW) representatives with the intent of bargaining in good faith to reach an agreement before the current contract ends. Howmet is committed to working with UAW to protect their customers, preserve jobs and support the long-term competitiveness of the Cleveland Operations.

Cuyahoga Heights School Superintendent Mr. Tom Evans, Board Member Mr. Mark Dobbins, along with members of the Best Committee were in attendance and spoke to council about how Ohio school districts are funded and about the upcoming levy. Superintendent Evans passed out a Cuyahoga Heights Local School District Levy Fact Sheet to all of council. *See Exhibit.*

Mr. Contipelli inquired about the update on the water department. Mayor Bacci responded that the first issue was fixed, and they energized the transmission line. Unfortunately, there was another leak north of that area on East 71st Street. Village Engineer Sciano informed council that the water department will be in the village once again, but they will open up the road and repair instead of using a laser.

Caucus ended at 5:55 p.m.

MAYOR BACCI CALLED THE COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER at 6:03 p.m.

Before the business meeting there was a moment of silence for the passing of village resident Mrs. Pat Smosarski.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None at this time.

PERMITS:

NEORSD Tunnel and Consolidation Project. Permit to construct a deep shaft and underground 23-foot diameter tunnel combined sewer starting at 4910 East 49th Street to Harvard Avenue.

PURCHASES:

Req 24-SD-2-A Approval for water line replacement to Village Hall kitchens and basement bathroom by DiFranco Plumbing not to exceed \$11,000.00.

Req 24-VH-58-A Approval for the annual donation to the Cuyahoga Heights Senior Citizen Organization not to exceed \$6,000.00.

Req 24-PD-2-A Approval for repairs to Vehicle 2956 by All Pro Collision Inc not to exceed \$11,717.17.

MINUTES:

January 10, 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 January 2024
RITA Final Report January 2024

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. 2024-15

January Payment of Certain Claims and Transfers
\$ 1,684,276.55

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT
WITH CLASS POOL PLASTERING, LLC FOR POOL REPAIR SERVICES

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FOR THE WILLOWBROOK CONNECTOR PAVEMENT & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE 2024 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT FROM THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SNIDER RECREATION, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPLASH PAD MATERIALS, WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOLS' ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATING AND GENERAL PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council has before them several motions that are numbered in the agenda that have been discussed at the business meeting prior to this meeting. Except for the last motion to approve of the Charter Review Committee.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for 2024 annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for the Joint & Crack Sealing for the 2024 season. Not to exceed \$25,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for the annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for the Flexible & Rigid Pavement Repairs for the 2024 Season. Not to exceed \$50,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 2024 sewer video, jetting, and light cleaning not to exceed \$50,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 2024 Catch Basin & Sewer Repair not to exceed \$50,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 2024 Sidewalk Improvements not to exceed \$50,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for annual operation and maintenance within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 2024 Street Striping not to exceed \$25,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for 2024 Annual Tree Trimming within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights not to exceed \$45,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for 2024 Annual Pool Chemicals and CO2 not to exceed \$20,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for 2024 Annual Flowers for Village Grounds not to exceed \$18,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to Sundance for 2024 Annual Cloud/Records/Maintenance not to exceed \$18,500.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to N2Net for Annual Firewall and Cloud Servers not to exceed \$13,380.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to Lexipol for Annual renewal fee for Policy Program not to exceed \$8,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create purchase order for car port beam wraps for the Police Department not to exceed \$9,500.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for schooling for Officers at the Police Department not to exceed \$7,500.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for Police Vests for Officers and the Mayor not to exceed \$7,200.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to Central Graphics for Upfitting of three new police vehicles not to exceed \$6,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to create a purchase order for Ammo for Police Officers not to exceed \$6,000.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to J & J Enterprises Svc. Inc. for removal of the old restroom at Bacci Park not to exceed \$5,120.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to Miller Gutter Systems. Inc. for gutter repairs at Klima Gardens, 901 Harvard, and 4972 East 71st not to exceed \$5,050.

A motion authorizing the CFO to issue a purchase order to Southwest Council of Governments for SWAT/SERT Annual Membership not to exceed \$28,000.

A motion to appoint Kelly Hartman to the Bacci Park Concession Stand as a seasonal manager.

A motion to appoint Sandra Sturgill to the Cuyahoga Heights Swimming Pool as a seasonal manager.

A motion to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Charter Review Committee - *Tabled.*

Motion to approve all the motions as prepared and place them on file with the exception of the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Schoeffler made the motion to accept the motions as prepared, seconded by Mr. Unger. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI: Happy Valentines to everyone!

Congratulations to Law Director Ben Chojnacki and his wife. Alex gave birth to their 5th child, a baby girl named Neda in the early morning of February 5th. Congratulations and mom and baby are doing fine!

Thank you to council for supporting the re-appointments of Mrs. Sandi Sturgill as Pool Manager and Mrs. Kelly Hartman as Concession Stand Manager for the 2024 season.

In case you see a lot of activity at/or around the elementary school tomorrow, Thursday, February 15 – they are hosting a VIP Day from 7:45-8:45 a.m.

As a reminder, the village hall office and service department will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of President's Day. Rubbish collection and special pickup will each be pushed back a day.

We will be holding our Easter egg hunt next month on Saturday, March 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Klima Gardens. The Easter egg hunt is open to our resident children and grandchildren- ages 0 through 12.

February birthday wishes to employes: (2) Lance Hatcher; (5) Dave Pulucki, Jason Sagan, Keith Faron; (7) Nicholas Dalton; (14) Assistant Building Commissioner Ken Labella is celebrating his 61st birthday today; (15) Building Commissioner Norm Casini will be 91; (16) Councilman Rick Centa & Joseph Cipriano, (24) Village Engineer Todd Sciano; and (28) Lee Ann Schoeffler.

Thank you to council for their support of the school levy. I believe the school is managed properly—and not only what the school is doing for the young students, but what it does for us homeowners in our property value and the services that we provide the community.

MR. CENTA: Thank you to council and the mayor on behalf of the seniors for approving the \$6,000 donation for our small trips throughout the year. We are a small but mighty group! Birthday wishes to those in February and a happy Valentine's Day to all! Pat Smosarski was such a sweetheart and never raised her voice, she was a quiet well-spoken lady.

MR. CONTIPELLI: Congrats to Ben on his baby girl! Shout out to Patrolman Fank Trusso, showing the young guys he still has it! Reminder to council that Rick Centa will be my date this Friday the 16th for the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's breakfast downtown at the Music Box in which our community will be recognized for their support.

MR. SCHOEFFLER: With the support of the levy, we really need to come together as a community. Working with the Cuyahoga Heights students at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, they are some of the top-notch kids that come from all over, so everyone should really support the upcoming levy. Mayor Bacci encouraged Mr. Schoeffler—because he is the most social media savvy on council, to engage with people via social media with as many facts and positivity, in support of the levy.

MR. UNGER: Also supports the levy and hopes that everyone else supports it as well in the upcoming election.

MR. VOLEK: In agreement with Mr. Schoeffler and Mr. Unger about the school levy. Hopefully if we can spread the word, we can push this and better our schools.

MR. BLOAM: Nothing at this time.

POLICE CHIEF BRIAN STURGILL: As far as updates on the illuminating situation, the safety concerns about the splinter that was inquired about in March of 2023 on the light poles;

the Illuminating Company cannot remove poles and repair them until the infrastructure is accessed. Mayor Bacci noted that we gave Mr. Centa the documents about the requests that borders are an issue, privately owned lights are an issue, current lights that aren't in function correctly are an issue.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SAMMONS: Congratulations to Ben!

FIRE CHIEF SUHY: Congratulations to all!

LAW DIRECTOR CHOJNACKI: Nothing to report.


CFO MERIWETHER: Nothing to report.

ADMIN. ASST. TO THE MAYOR SCHOEFFLER: Nothing to report.


BUILDING COMMISSION NORM CASINI and VILLAGE ENGINEER SCIANO: Gave a brief update on the upcoming NEORSO Southerly Tunnel project.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this council, Mr. Contipelli moved, seconded by Mr. Volek that the council meeting be adjourned at 6:26 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed, motion carried.

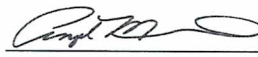
Approved 

Mayor


Renato Contipelli (Mar 14, 2024 09:18 EDT)

Mayor and or President of Council

On February 14, 2024



Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council